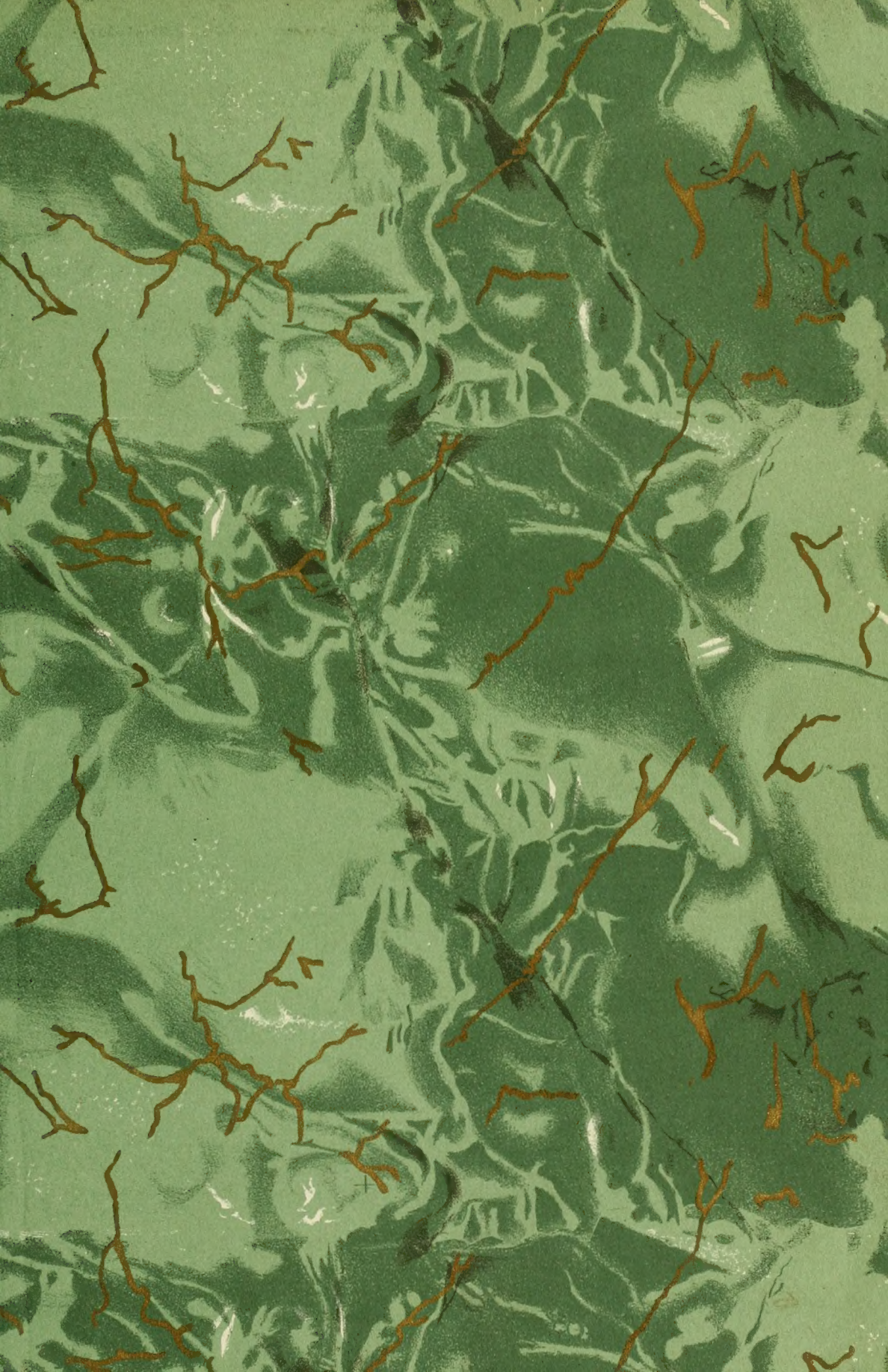


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YORK COUNTY

NEBRASKA

AND ITS PEOPLE

Together with a Condensed History of the State

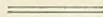


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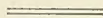


A Record of Settlement, Organization,
Progress and Achievement



VOL. I

ILLUSTRATED



CHICAGO

THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY

1921

EMB

HYMN TO NEBRASKA

BY REV. WILLIAM H. BUSS, FREMONT

Now laud the proud tree planter state,
Nebraska,—free, enlightened, great;
Her royal place she has in song:
The noblest strains to her belong:

Her fame is sure.

Then sing Nebraska through the years;
Extol her stalwart pioneers;
The days when, stanch and unafraid,
The state's foundations, well they laid,
To long endure.

The land where Coronado trod,
And brave Marquette surveyed the sod;
Where red men long in council sat;
Where spreads the valley of the Platte
Far 'neath the sun.

The land, beside whose borders sweep
The big Missouri's waters, deep,
Whose course erratic, through its sands,
From northland on, through many
lands,
Does seaward run.

The foothills of the Rockies lie
Afar athwart her western sky:
Her rolling prairie, like the sea,
Held long in virgin sanctity
Her fertile loam.

Her wild-life roamed o'er treeless plains
Till came the toiling wagon-trains,
And settlers bold, far westward bound,
In broad Nebraska's valley found
Their chosen home.

Now o'er her realm and 'neath her sky,
Her golden harvests richly lie;
Her corn more vast than Egypt yields;
Her grain unmatched in other fields:
Her cattle rare.

Alfalfa fields, by winding streams;
And sunsets, thrilling poets' dreams,
These all we sing, and know the time
Has ne'er revealed a fairer clime,
Or sweeter air.

O proud Nebraska, brave and free;
Thus sings thy populace to thee.
Thy virile strength, thy love of light;
Thy civic glory, joined with right,
Our hearts elate.

Thy manly wisdom, firm to rule;
Thy womanhood in church and school;
Thy learning, culture, art, and peace
Do make thee strong, and ne'er shall
cease
To keep thee great.

(to be included on occasion)

Her heaving bluffs uplift their heads
Along her winding river beds,
And, pleasing far the traveler's view,—
Well guard her Elkhorn and her Blue,
Encrowned with wood.
And there, by landmarks, ne'er to fail,
Upon the ancient westward trail;
Or graven stone, securely placed,
By eye observant may be traced
Where wigwam stood.

Her honored cities grow in wealth;
In thriving commerce, public health;
Her first, the gateway of the West;
Her Omaha, that will not rest,
Nor take defeat.
Her capital of worthy fame,
That bears the mighty Lincoln's name,
And thousands of Nebraska youth
E'er summons to her fount of truth,
At learning's seat.

PREFACE

THE STORY OF A STATE

Events do not necessarily have to be a century behind in the dim past to be history. Nebraska is making history at a dizzy speed. Here lies an opportunity for the chronicler not only to dig into the past, but from the raw material of the present form valuable foundations for future reference. There are men yet living in this vicinity who can remember the time when its connection with the human story would have seemed absurd. They have seen the buffalo, the antelope, the prairie dog and the coyote, the rattlesnake and the owl, and even the occasional friendly Indian retire before the explorer, the trader, the Mormons, the immigrants, the homesteader, the stalwart pioneer, and seen the endless prairies dotted with the soddy, then the hut, and finally the luxuriant farms and prosperous towns of present Nebraska.

Full volumes have been written on the history of Nebraska, going into long, laborious detail upon each important topic. But so many readers feel that the task of familiarizing themselves with volume after volume is too exacting upon the time of the busy, hurried twentieth-century individual. So it has been considered expedient to introduce the county historical section of this work with an abridged review of the historical development of the State of Nebraska. That this may be equally interesting to readers of all classes, be brief enough to be thoroughly examined, be systematized so that the salient facts can be found whenever reference is desired, this part of the work has been compiled by the undersigned and many others, whose work has assisted him in a synoptical, chronological and encyclopedic arrangement.

A work of this character is not the product of one person's research, energy or ideas, but a compilation of the earnest fruitful endeavors of many persons. Particularly do the compiler and publishers wish to acknowledge thankful indebtedness to Hon. Addison E. Sheldon, secretary; Mrs. Clarence E. Paine, librarian; Albert Watkins, historian; and E. E. Blackman, curator of the Nebraska State Historical Society; George E. Condra, director of the Nebraska Conservation Commission, whose careful research of years "boiled down" in the Bulletin 14 of that department has gratefully been received as authority for a major portion of Chapters I, XIII and XIV of this work; and due gratitude and credit is extended to the work of Prof. Samuel Aughey and others who assisted in compilation of historical material in the early '80s, Harrison Johnson of Omaha, Prof. H. W. Foght, in his "Trail of the Loup," Gen. G. M. Dodge, and the authorities of the Federal Government for data furnished from their publications.

DALE P. STOUGH,

Grand Island, Nebraska.

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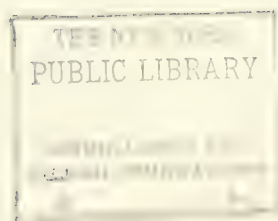
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DALE P. STOUGH



CHAPTER I

GEOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF NEBRASKA

CREATIVE PERIODS—THE ARCHAIC AGE—ERAS IN GEOLOGICAL HISTORY—THE PALEOZOIC ERA—THE PERMIAN AGE—THE MESOZOIC AGE—THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD—THE CENOZOIC ERA—THE TERTIARY AGE—THE QUATERNARY EPOCH—THE GLACIAL PERIOD—THE LOESS PERIOD—THE SOIL SURVEY AND ITS USE—THE SOIL RESOURCES AND REGIONS OF NEBRASKA—LOESS REGION—SANDHILL REGION—PHYSICAL FEATURES—RIVERS OF NEBRASKA—THE MISSOURI—THE PLATTE—THE REPUBLICAN—THE NIOBRARA—THE WHITE—THE ELKHORN—THE LOUPS—THE NEMAHAS—THE BLUES—THE CLIMATE OF NEBRASKA—NEBRASKA'S GAME RESOURCES—MAMMALS OF NEBRASKA—WILD LIFE RESOURCES—WILD GRASS RESOURCES—FOREST RESOURCES—WILD FRUITS—FISH RESOURCES—MODERN GAME RESOURCES—FUR BEARING ANIMALS.

"To me it seems that to look on the land that was ever lifted above the wasted waters, to follow the shore where the earliest animals and plants were created when the thought of God first expressed itself in organic form, to hold in one's hand a bit of stone from an old sea-beach, hardened into rock thousands of centuries ago, and studded with the beings that once crept upon its surface or were stranded there by some retreating wave, is even of deeper interest to man than the relics of their own race, for these things tell more directly of the thought and creative acts of God."—*Jean Louis Agassiz*.

Of course the history of a particular county named in the title of this work, and to the modern history of which the major portion of this work will be devoted, is inseparably wrapped into the history of the State of Nebraska. The history of the State of Nebraska cannot be creditably and comprehensively written without going further back than its early settlements and embracing a great deal of national history, and perchance even delving back into realms beyond that.

While it does not come within the scope of this work to dwell at any length upon the evolution of our state from the primal rock, it is necessary to go briefly that far back to correctly start the evolution of Nebraska, or any particular county therein.

Since the discussion of the geological formations of the state and the treatment of its natural resources and features belongs more correctly in the realm of science than of history, only such a treatment of such subjects will be made here as is necessary to carry out the chronology of the development of the state.

CREATIVE PERIODS

Of course, the true history of Nebraska begins with the creative formation of this part of the Western Hemisphere that lies within the boundaries of this state. Likewise, the particular county involved most particularly in this narration gains its first sources from the same forces.

In the aeons of time since the Creation, our planet, the Earth, has passed through many marvelous changes. We will make no effort, for it stands to reason that we could not, to define at what particular time the creative forces began their operation on our part of the Earth's surface. It is enough to point out briefly that the story of the Creation, as familiar to all readers of this work, brought forth another planet, the Earth. After countless ages slipped away and the first surface of the Earth, a universal, shoreless ocean, so the scientists tell us, cast forth folds of contracting fire-rock-crest and a surface crust appeared of the first dry land. In the Western World the first lands attributed by some scientists to have appeared were the wedge-shaped Laurentian Highlands, approaching the shores of Hudson Bay, and other strips of land were slowly emerging to the east of the present Appalachians, and also in the western part of the United States stretching from Colorado to California.

THE ARCHAIC AGE

It was during this first, or Archaean era, that the process of formation heretofore partially described took place. It was during that period that our globe started from its position as a companion star to the Sun to pass through its cooling process. The basaltic rocks are believed best to represent the physical character of the earth's crust at the beginning of recorded geological history. Some rocks of this epoch are still believed to exist in Canada, 40,000 feet thick, and at least as extensive in the Rocky Mountains and in the Sierras. So far as known, during this period, there was no dry land in Nebraska, but the territory in which we are interested was probably still boundless ocean, so we can pass this period swiftly by.

ERAS IN GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

Before passing to the next era in geological history, it is aptly fitting that we pause a moment and define Geology, and briefly list the various geological periods.

Geology has been defined as the poetry and romance of science. That alone would justify us pausing before we come to the more human manifestations of our historical narrative. It reveals the causes that make the prosperity of a region possible. It is the somber, undecorative, but highly essential material foundation to the structure we are going to build and weave in this work. We cannot fundamentally understand the structure of our state without a brief review of this phase of its development.

As now best understood from its rock memorials, to which our scientists turn when making research for this part of our state's history, there have been five great geological eras, viz: The Archaean era, of which we have already briefly made a review; the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic, the Cenozoic, and the Psychozoic.

THE PALEOZOIC ERA

This is called the Animal Life era. During this era the areas were gradually enlarged, and myriad forms of strange organisms appeared. Geologists usually divide this aeon into three distinct ages: The Age of Invertebrates—subdivided into the Upper and Lower Silurian eras—when numberless sponges, corals, starfishes, mollusks and other strange animal types dominated the ocean depths, and a few

terrestrial plants appeared; the Age of Fishes, or Devonian era, when the ocean plants swarmed with sharks, gar-pikes and turtle-like placoderms of huge size; and the Carboniferous Age—subdivided into Subcarboniferous, Carboniferous and Permian eras—when coal plants grew and the coal measures were formed.

During neither of the two first named—the age of Invertebrates or Fishes—is land attributed to have formed in the area now occupied by Nebraska. Numerous islands are attributed to have dotted the present states of Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa, so we are fast approaching the beginning of Nebraska. Likewise, we pass by the Subcarboniferous era, but it is in the Carboniferous era that dry land is believed to have appeared in Nebraska. It was one of the most wonderful ages in the history of the globe, for, during its progress, the thickest, most extensive and most valuable of all the coal beds were formed.

A few brief features of this era will be noted.

Atmosphere. It has been described thus: "A murky, cloudy atmosphere, surcharged with carbon-dioxide gas, enveloping the earth and giving it a uniform hothouse temperature."

Physical Surface. From Pennsylvania to eastern Nebraska and central Kansas, it presented a changing view of vast jungles, lakes with floating grove islands, and some dry-land forests.

THE PERMIAN AGE

This was the closing period of the Paleozoic aeon. The greater part of Nebraska was yet a part of the ocean bed, covered by turbulent waters. This age is really a transition period that ushers in the next great age. The Nebraska area formed in this age covers but a few more counties. Near Beatrice are many exposures of yellowish and bluish magnesian limestone, full of geode cavities, lined with calc-spar, indicating the Permian deposits. The Carboniferous Age was brought to a close by an upward movement of the Continent and this continued through the Permian, until much of the surface water was drained, making it impossible to preserve many memorials of its latter history.

THE MESOZOIC AGE

This, the age of Middle Life, has also been called the Age of Reptiles, "for never in the history of the earth were reptiles so abundant, of such size and variety, or so highly organized as then." This era included three periods: 1. The *Triassic*, so named for triple rockbeds in Germany; 2. The *Jurassic*, named after the Jura Mountains, in France; and 3. The *Cretaceous*, from the Latin creta, chalk, referring to the formation of large chalk beds in England and Continental Europe.

Early scientists tell us that careful examination fails to disclose the least trace of a Juro-Triassic deposit in Nebraska, so we can rather rapidly pass by this period. The same events that prevented a preservation of distinguishable traces of the Permian would, if continued, prevent the deposition of Triassic and Jurassic rocks here. So we may, in a large degree, be certain that during these periods Nebraska had become an extended land surface, and if so, there must have flourished here for countless centuries the peculiar vegetable and animal life of these times. The length of these periods can be ascertained only relatively. But basing an opinion on the fact that in the Rocky Mountain regions the sediments reach 3,800 feet in thickness—

large portion of which accumulate very slowly—the time involved in the accumulation of sediments in sea bottoms has been variously estimated from one inch to one foot a century, so at even the latter rate, the time involved may have been 315,000 years.

THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD

This period marks the beginning of the end of the Mesozoic Era. A general subsidence now set in which seems to have embraced even the Rocky Mountain region. A marine bay broke northward from the Gulf of Mexico, and, before the middle of the period, covered Texas, Indian territory, and part of Kansas, and the western half of Nebraska and even much territory still northwestward. Thus the Rocky Mountain nucleus was again reduced to groups of islands, as in Paleozoic times, and all western Nebraska was once more, though now for the last time, a part of the ocean bed. Toward the latter part of this period the continent began to rise again. During this period of emergence, indeed a great geologic revolution was preparing. The entire Rocky Mountain region was thrown into a series of earth folds, the crust of the mountain system was formed, with a drainage seaward. So Nebraska, from thence on has faced eastward, a part of the continental plain.

The Cretaceous deposits in Nebraska are of vast extent and importance, so we will dwell a little longer upon them than upon some of the preceding periods. For convenience, they have been classified into several groups.

The *Dakota Group*, so named by Hayden, because of its development southwest from Dakota City. It is found mainly in the present counties of Dakota, Wayne, Winnebago, Burt, Washington, Cuming, Stanton, Colfax, Dodge, Sarpy, Saunders, Butler, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and occasionally in counties bordering on these.

The *Fort Benton Group*. This lies conformably on the Dakota group. A few exposures are present, from which some study of this group has been made. Among these might be mentioned—as seen below the mouth of Iowa Creek, in Dixon County, along the Missouri bluffs, and below Milford, in Seward County, in deep sections.

The *Niobrara Group*, extending from the mouth of the Niobrara River, dipping under the center portion of the state and reappearing again in the southwest, in Harlan County. It is the most extensive of the cretaceous groups in Nebraska. It is evidenced by deposits of impure chalk rock, varying from a grayish white to a pinkish, bluish and yellow hue. These are in evidence especially in Knox, Cedar, and Dixon counties. An impure, yellowish siliceous limestone also evidences in Seward County, near Milford, and in Harlan County.

The *Fort Pierre Group*, lying above the Niobrara deposits, cropping out in Knox County, and other places, among which are as far west as Hitchcock County.

And lastly, the *Laramie Group*, in the southwestern counties of the state. The Laramie Sea extended from southwestern Nebraska over the entire plain region of Colorado, and reached into New Mexico, Wyoming and Dakota territory. The rock of the group is mainly composed of sandstones, shales and clays in Nebraska, but on the other hand this is the great coal-bearing group of the West. The great coal-bearing nature of almost all other parts of this group still fans the hopes of southwestern Nebraska toward the future discovery of coal.

This brings us to the last great aeon in geological history.

CENOZOIC ERA

The culmination of those physical changes that had been in progress during the whole of the latter portion of the cretaceous period inaugurated the Cenozoic Age. This age, or the Age of Mammals, is divided into two periods:—*Tertiary* and the *Quaternary*.

The *Tertiary Age* embraces three epochs, the *Eocene*, the *Miocene*, and the *Pliocene*. Of these only the latter two are represented in Nebraska. The period of marine waters over western Nebraska was now past. The Rocky Mountain revolution, heretofore referred to, had left the Great Plains a part of the continent. But this plain was yet very near sea level, as evidenced plainly by the vast lakes of fresh water found both east and west of the Rocky Mountains. As stated above, there are no evidences of deposits of the Eocene epoch in Nebraska. The vegetable life of the Tertiary Age carried forward somewhat in advance of the periods heretofore described. Lesquereux has described forty-six species of plants, among which were giant cedars, cottonwoods, elders, birch, oaks, figs, magnolias and walnuts. It will be observed that some of these still belonged to warmer climates than we know of in modern Nebraska. The animal life of this period was distinctly mammalian. In the deposits evidencing the Tertiary Age, most wonderful remains of these animals are found by scientific researchers.

The *Miocene Tertiary Epoch* was a gradual shading from the preceding era. Conditions changed considerably during the Miocene times; for then a fresh water lake, or series of lakes, covered the western part of the state, receiving the drainage of the rivers that now have their outlet in the Missouri. Into this lake bed were carried broken down materials from the Rocky Mountain axis and the Black Hills, and from the higher lying Juro-Triassic and Cretaceous deposits. Hither, too, were gathered, as in a vast cemetery, remnants of all the vegetable and animal life of the epoch. A gradual uplifting of strata has left these lake bottoms high and dry. Erosion too has changed their contour much, accounting for many deep valleys, cliffs and buttes in endless variety in a non-mountainous country as Nebraska.

“The *Mauvais Terres* of the French trapper, or ‘Bad Lands,’ are clearly defined in the White River country of northwestern Nebraska, and cover hundreds of square miles of southwestern South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming. All through that region the story of the past is told in most forceful language. Banks full of fossil bones, baccolites, huge petrified tortoises, and fossil leaves tell how Nebraska looked in those times. Magnolias, oaks, palms, figs, maples, lindens and pines grew in wild luxuriance, and the giant sequoias of California grew on every hill. Drovers of Miocene horses frequented the lake shores, the ancestral hog wallowed in the bogs, flocks of monkeys chattered* in the treetops, and plain and forest were the haunt and breeding ground of droves of huge mastodons and wicked-eyed rhinoceroes and tapirs. Such were then the *Ma-koo-si-tcha*, or hard lands to travel over, as the Sioux nomad has seen fit to designate these regions.”

The *Pliocene Epoch* of the Tertiary Age is marked by a general enlargement of the old Miocene lake bed, particularly eastward and southwestward. This strata so outreaches the Miocene area that it overlies the Cretaceous in some central counties of the state. Much of the pliocene material is exceedingly coarse. Beds of conglomerate rocks made up of “waterworn pebbles, feldspar and quartz in masses,

and some small pieces or chips of all the Archaean rocks" overlies beds of much worn sandstones and clays.

Sandhills. In many parts of the north central and northwestern Nebraska the upper beds have become decomposed and an immense amount of fine sand of a more or less stable nature has heaped up to form the famous "sand hills." Beneath lie strata of compacted gravel, then come limestone formations, yellow grits and layers of many colored sands and clays.

The *Quaternary Period* of the Pliocene Epoch brought a great change over the earth. In Nebraska lakebeds gradually drained out, and the semi-tropical conditions heretofore referred to began to change and fade away. Arctic conditions began to invade from the north, extending into what is now the North Temperate zone and pushing both fauna and flora equatorward. The Quaternary Period brought on the Glacial Period. For reasons more scientific than historical, the temperature of North America gradually fell so low that the snows of winter accumulated too rapidly for the summer's warmth to remove. The result was a glaciation of vast land areas.

The *Glacial Period.* A great ice sheet, formed by its own weight, slowly moved southward, enfolding the earth in its embrace. A thick mantle of ice extended south of the southern line of Nebraska, and according to Agassiz, at one time to the 36th parallel.

Traces of the ice movements are abundant. Along the Missouri River wherever the superficial deposits are removed the underlying limestone beds are worn smooth as glass and are full of glacial scratches and flutings. Indications are that such a drift covered at least the eastern one-third of the state. Here are found the beds of blue clay so characteristic of this period; and in strata above these, drift gravel and clay; and next above, gravel and water worn boulders of various size.

After countless ages of polar winter an era of general subsidence took place in the glaciated regions; through a great mass of general humidity, the ice mantle began to melt and recede. Immense floods raged in the valleys and the continent from the glacier edge to the gulf was converted into an inland sea, full of floating icebergs, which drifting aimlessly about, when they melted, dropped their immense loads of sand, gravel and boulders to the lake bottoms. These floods are reputed to have covered all of Nebraska except the Miocene beds of the White River region and the western uplands and a few of the highest crests of the Pliocene deposits, which lay too high to be reached by the engulfing waters. The Miocene or Pliocene formations, known to us by such names as Scott's Bluffs or Chimney Rock, must, in those times, have been so many islands set in a turbulent sea.

The *Loess Period* followed the Glacial Period. It is claimed that during this melting period the Loup Valley of Central Nebraska was submerged entirely, and received the loess-clay deposits which have made it one of the most fertile regions in the state. The Loess deposits first received this name in America from Lyell, who observed them along the Mississippi in various places. The name had been used before in Europe to designate such materials in the valleys of the Rhine and Danube. Hayden called them bluff deposits, because of the peculiar configuration they give to the uplands that border the flood plains of the rivers. This deposit, not particularly rich in organic remains, but in some respects one of the most remarkable in the world, prevails over something like three-fourths of the surface of Nebraska. It ranges in thickness from 5 to 150 feet. Even at North Platte, 300 miles west of

the Missouri, on the south side of the river, it varies in thickness from 125 to 150 feet.

From the foregoing pages it will be noted in Nebraska that formations older than the Pliocene are nowhere exposed excepting the Miocene deposits in the "Bad Lands" of the Northwest. Up to this point, the narrative of the formation of the structure of our state has taken in account nothing concerning the presence of the human race within the confines of Nebraska.

The foregoing geological review has been designed mainly to serve as a pictorial panorama of the evolution of the physical "territory" now Nebraska. Most of the statements made have been based upon the earliest geological observations of Prof. Samuel Aughey and his associates, of a period of forty years ago. In the intervening forty years, with the increasing facilities for research, Prof. E. H. Barbour, Prof. Geo. E. Condra and other geological students of Nebraska have made many new discoveries, and have in some instances discovered evidences which lead to vastly different conclusions in relation to the location, initial appearance or manner of discovery of certain geological evidences, heretofore mentioned. The final results of these studies and changes and detailed observations from a practical viewpoint have been incorporated in "*The Soil Survey*."

It is purposed now, to make a short statement of the purposes of the soil survey, and to incorporate at this point a part of the final findings of Nebraska's students of this phase of the state's life. This portion is furnished by The Nebraska Conservation and Welfare Commission (Bulletins 14 and 15, 1920). While this is also a slight departure from the historical narrative, it will serve for valuable practical purposes to many readers of this work.

THE SOIL SURVEY AND ITS USE

A considerable part of Nebraska has been covered by soil surveys made by state and federal departments. Persons dealing in real estate or expecting to buy land in Nebraska will find useful information in the various county reports.

Information regarding the surveys can be secured from the Conservation and Soil Survey Department of The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, or from the U. S. Bureau of Soils, Washington, D. C.

Soil the Greatest Natural Resource. Most Nebraska soils are deep, fertile, stone-free and easily tilled. Practically no artificial fertilizer is used. Humus is replenished in crop rotation by growing legumes. These unusually favorable conditions, as compared with most states, are not as fully appreciated as they should be by those who own Nebraska land.

Importance of Subsoil. Land sales should be made on a basis of careful examination and report. More care should be used here than in buying a house or some security.

THE SOIL RESOURCES AND REGIONS OF NEBRASKA

By G. E. Condra, Director Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey

Nebraska is large and diverse. The area is 77,510 square miles. The altitude ranges between about 840 feet in the southeastern corner of Richardson County and 5,340 in the western part of Banner County. Surface features vary from

smooth plains to mountainous areas. There are more than 100 soils which constitute the state's most important resource. Persons wishing a fuller or more extended discussion of soil resources of the state should secure soil bulletin 15 of the Conservation and Soil Survey.

On a basis of soil and topography, Nebraska has three well defined regions — the Loess, Sandhill, and High Plains.

LOESS REGION

This region, so named on account of its subsoil, occupies about 42,000 square miles, or more than the southeast half of the state. It is a well-developed agricultural region.

The loess is well shown in many railroad cuts and excavations as at Omaha, Plattsmouth, and Nebraska City. There are three kinds, known as the plains, terrace, and bluff loesses. The deposits occur throughout the uplands of the Loess Region, except on the drift hills.

The loess is generally, but erroneously, known as "yellow clay." Technically, it is mostly silt, containing some clay and fine sand. It is a silt loam. The most distinguishing features are the buff color, massive appearance, fine texture, and ability to stand vertically in bluffs and exposures. Loess forms the most even-textured, deep, fertile subsoil of our country.

The Loess Region has eight kinds of land, known as loess plains, loess hills, drift hills, bluff lands, canyon areas, bench lands, flood plains or bottom lands proper, and small areas of wind-formed hills.

Loess Plains, or the nearly level uplands of the region, have an area of about 14,100 square miles. The largest and most typical plain is between Gosper and Saunders counties. Its boundaries are the Platte, Republican, and Big Blue valleys. The surface of this plain is quite even, but modified to some extent by small drainage-ways, shallow basins, and low knolls. Some of the typical locations on this plain are David City, Fairmont and Holdrege.

Smaller loess plains are located north of Ogallala, south of the Platte Valley at Sutherland, in southwestern Lincoln County, southeastern Chase County, northeastern Dundy, southern Frontier, southwestern and southeastern Custer, part of the upland between Broken Bow and Sargent, northern Buffalo, small areas north of Ravenna, six miles south of North Loup, the upland between St. Paul and Boelus, west of Wolbach, southwest of Spalding, and the nearly flat uplands of Boone, Madison, Wayne, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Washington, and other northeastern counties. Several loess plains occur east of the Big Blue, as in eastern Seward, northern Gage, southern Lancaster, central Cass and eastern Johnson counties.

All of the above plains are capped with 25 to 100 feet of loess subsoil. The land is stone free and very easy to till. The main crops are wheat, oats, alfalfa, and corn. The country is most beautiful. There are endless views of improved farms and towns. Land values range between \$100 and \$500 per acre depending on the position, amount of rainfall, and improvements. For further information in regard to the loess plains consult the soil surveys of Fillmore, Dodge and Phelps counties.

Loess Hill Areas. These, with an area of about 11,900 square miles, occupy the northeastern counties of the state and a narrow strip just west of the bluff belt of the Missouri farther south.

Some of the river bluffs are quite high, as along the Missouri. From the top downward they contain loess, drift, and bedrock. The mantle rock materials dislodge from the steep slopes making land slides below and vertical walls above. The bluff land belts are cut by many deep ravines and small valleys and further modified by numerous ridges and spurs. As a whole, the topography is rough. The principal soil is the Knox silt loam.

Canyon Areas. These have a combined area of about 1,500 square miles in the western part of the Loess Region. Here the rough, steep sided valleys, called canyons, separate the upland into flats. Canyon areas occur in parts of Lincoln, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock, Gosper, Dawson, and Custer counties. Small slips or land slides are common in canyons having sides not so steep, and in places the flat divides have been eroded away leaving areas of bold hills separated by V-shaped canyons.

Much of the soil of the canyon areas is used for grazing. The small, flat divides are farmed to wheat, oats, rye, corn, kafir, cane, etc.

The Waukesha soils occupy most of the benches in the central and eastern counties, but are modified by small patches of basin soils of heavier texture and knolls having soils of lighter texture.

Sand is exposed along the edges of some terraces. This sand mixes with the silt from above or washes out upon the valley floor making fine sandy loams. Persons wishing descriptions of the bench land soils should consult the surveys of Saunders, Dodge, Douglas, Wayne and other counties.

The bench lands of Nebraska have high value because of their fertility and freedom from overflows. They are well suited to grain farming and especially well adapted to alfalfa raising.

Bottom or Alluvial Lands are well defined in all river valleys and in most creek valleys of the Loess Region. The total area of such land, including flood plains, alluvial fans, colluvial slopes, and the poorly defined, low benches, is about 3,750 square miles.

Several alluvial soils have been mapped. Among them are those of the Wabash, Cass, Sarpy, Hall, Lamoure, and Judson series. Descriptions of these series may be found in the soil surveys of Washington, Nemaha, Richardson, Douglas, Wayne, Dodge, Gage, Polk, Fillmore, Hall, Phelps, and other counties.

The Wabash silt loam, silty clay loam, and clay are common alluvial soils in the eastern part of the region. They are close textured, dark colored and unusually deep as shown on the flood plains of the Big Nemaha, Little Nemaha, Weeping Water, Salt Creek, Maple Creek, and Logan Creek, and most of the Big Blue and its tributaries. There are considerable areas of these soils in the Platte, Elkhorn, and Missouri River valleys. As a whole, the Wabash soils are very fertile. They are generally farmed to corn rotated with small grain. Drainage is required at places.

The Cass series, represented by five types, is black in the surface layer, brownish to grayish in the upper subsoil and underlain by a thick layer of sand. These soils are productive.

The Lamoure soils, represented by three types mapped along the Platte in Dodge, Polk, Hall, and Phelps counties, resemble those of the Wabash series, but are less perfectly drained. They have a calcareous subsoil, which is lighter in color than that of the Wabash series.

The Judson silt loam occurs as small areas principally on colluvial slopes at

the foot of uplands and terraces in various parts of Dodge, Hall, Polk and Phelps counties and is not subject to flooding. It is deep, dark brown and contains considerable humus.

There are a number of other alluvial soils in the principal valleys of the Loess Region. As a rule, they become more sandy and carry less humus as one goes westward. The sandy soils are well suited to grazing and hay production and those of finer textures are well adapted to farming.

Wind-formed areas occur at various places along the western border of the Loess Region and at a few places on the loess plains proper. They are represented by choppy hills resembling dunes and occupy about 900 square miles.

In a general way, the larger wind-formed areas are a broader land between the loess and sandhill regions. Their soils vary in texture but are composed largely of sand and silt. The largest areas of these soils are north and northeast of Minden; east of Hildreth; north of Grand Island; in western Boone County; eastern Wheeler County; northwest of Greeley; northeastern Lincoln County; on the upland south of North Platte; ten miles southwest of Maywood, and at the east border of the sandhills in Dundy County. The land is used for grazing, production of native hay and for farming.

SANDHILL REGION

This is the best defined soil region in Nebraska. The topography, drainage, soils and roads are very unlike those of the Loess Region to the east and the high plains on the west.

The main body of the sandhills, in the north-central and central western parts of the state is known as the Sandhill Region. There are several outlying areas, making in all about 20,000 square miles, occupied by hills, basins, valleys, marshes, and lakes.

The soils of the sandhill areas are quite sandy as a rule. They correlate with the land forms and are herein described as dunesand, dry valley soils, and wet valley soils.

Dunesand is the typical soil of the sandhills. It occupies about two-thirds of the area of the region and is characterized by its mobility, low humus content, and uniform fine sandy texture. There is little difference between surface soil and subsoil. Both are light gray in color and of loose structure. They contain a very low percentage of silt and clay. The hill land, valued at from \$8 to \$20 an acre, is used nearly wholly for grazing.

The State Survey classifies the hills under two divisions—first grade and second grade, depending upon the continuity of the grass cover and the amount of blow ground.

Plains. The most distinctive feature is the high plains, hence the name now used. The smooth uplands are used for farming and grazing. Much of the valley land is irrigated.

The largest natural divisions of the High Plains Region are Perkins Plains, 1,650 square miles; Cheyenne Table, 3,275; Pumpkin Creek Valley, 455; Wildcat Ridge, 151; North Platte Valley, 1,100; Box Butte Table, 2,010; Niobrara Valley, 240 (western part); Dawes Table, 1,400; Pine Ridge, 500; Hat Creek Basin, 390; White River Basin, 862; Springview Table, 642; Ainsworth Table, 284, and Holt Plain, 1,400.

Perkins Plain is in Perkins, Chase, and Keith counties and northeastern Colorado, but has its most typical development in the northeastern part of Perkins County, Nebraska. It is bordered on the north by South Platte Valley, and on the east and south by sandhill and loess areas. The surface varies from nearly level to rough and is modified by a few sandhills. (See Chase County Soil Survey.)

The soils of Perkins Plain are used for grazing and farming. The more sandy types, because of blowing, are devoted to grazing. Dry farming is practiced generally on the more stable soils. Wheat, rye, oats, kafir, corn, etc., are the main crops. Land values range between \$15 and more than \$100 an acre.

Cheyenne Table is bordered on the north by the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte valleys and extends southward to and beyond Lodgepole Creek and the Colorado line. Much of the surface is a smooth table land, but some of it is undulating to rolling and rough. The eastern part, a spur between the Platte valleys, is capped with loess. The rest of the area, except on the valley floors, has residual soils.

The leading soil series on the table land is the Rosebud, represented by five types ranging between the silt loam and the gravelly sandy loam. The Kimball County survey classes these soils with the Sidney series, a name which has been discontinued. (See Cheyenne County Soil Survey.)

Some of the steep slopes of Cheyenne Table have stony outcrops. The slopes, as along the Lodgepole, have sandy soils classed with the Cheyenne series. Similar materials occur in many sand draws. Finer textured soils of the Tripp series occur on the low terraces, principally in Lodgepole Valley. The bottom land soils proper of the valley are classed with the Laurel series. They have a light to pale yellow surface layer and a coarse, calcareous subsoil. Persons wishing a description of Cheyenne Table should secure the soil reports of Kimball, Cheyenne, and Morrill counties.

Certain soils in Cheyenne Table have been farmed successfully for a number of years, as in the vicinity of Dalton. The drouthy soils are best suited to grazing. Here, as elsewhere, the farmer should select a farm on a basis of the soils and climate.

Land values for Cheyenne Table range between \$35 and \$150 an acre. Wheat, oats, corn, cane, and potatoes are the principal crops. There is successful irrigation on higher priced land in Lodgepole Valley.

Pumpkin Creek Valley, between Cheyenne Table and Wildcat Ridge, is tributary to the North Platte Valley. It is bordered by escarpment-like walls throughout most of its course, but is open near the Wyoming line and at the point of junction with the Platte.

Long slopes are a feature of the valley floor. These are of two kinds, those formed by the weathering and erosion of the underlying Brule clay, and those built up of colluvial materials. The Brule clay slopes are rounded and billowy. They are eroded as small badlands at places. The colluvial slopes, occurring south of the creek in the eastern part of the valley, are comparatively smooth and terrace-like. The bottom lands of the valley consist of the flood plains bordering Pumpkin Creek and its tributaries, and of low terraces.

There are a number of soils in Pumpkin Creek Valley. Those with largest distribution are classed with the Epping, Bridgeport, Tripp, and Laurel series. The Epping silt loam was developed upon the Brule clay. It grades within a few

inches from the yellowish-brown surface soil to the undisturbed Brule clay. The soils on the colluvial slopes are classed with the Bridgeport series represented principally by fine sandy loam and very fine sandy loam, but there are small areas of fine sand. These soils drain well and are easily worked, but are subject to blowing where light textured.

The Tripp soils occur on the benches, and range between the very fine sandy loam and fine sand. The drainage is good and most of the soil is suited for farming. The Laurel soils occur on the first bottoms of the trunk and tributary streams.

The soils of Pumpkin Creek Valley are described in the Survey reports of Scotts Bluff, Banner and Morrill counties and in the Reconnaissance Soil Survey of western Nebraska, which may be secured from the U. S. Bureau of Soils, Washington. The absence of a railroad in the valley has retarded development. The rough and sandy lands are grazed but much of the rest of the area is dry farmed and irrigated. Land values range between \$10 and about \$125 an acre.

Wildcat Ridge is between Pumpkin Creek and North Platte valleys. It begins near the eastern end of 66-Mountain at the Wyoming line and extends eastward and southeastward about 50 miles, ending in Court House and Jail Rock south of Bridgeport. It rises from 400 to 700 feet above the bordering valleys in most of its course, but lowers eastward. Three prominent spurs project northward and northeastward toward the Platte ending in Scotts Bluff Mountain, Castle Rock, and Chimney Rock. A spur extending southward ends in Hog Back Mountain and Wildcat Mountain. Among the features of Wildcat Ridge are Signal Butte, altitude 4,583 feet; Bald Peak, 4,420 feet; Scotts Bluff Mountain, 4,662 feet; Hog Back Mountain, 5,082 feet; and Court House Rock, 4,100 feet. Wildcat Ridge is scenic because of its relief, topography and pine forest.

Much of Wildcat Ridge is rough broken land thinly covered with grass, shrubs, and pines. The less abrupt parts are occupied by the Rosebud stony fine sand and the more gradual slopes by the Rosebud loamy fine sand. Most of the soil is used for grazing. Some is farmed.

North Platte Valley is Nebraska's most important irrigation country. The soils, topography, climate, and water supply support irrigation on a large scale.

The valley is wide between the Wyoming line and the eastern part of Morrill County, beyond which it is narrow to the point of union with the South Platte. The upper parts of the valley sides are steep, stony land. Sandhills border the north side between Oshkosh and North Platte. The rough stony land on the south gives way below Lewellen to loess bluffs. One feature of the valley is a large terrace on the north between the Wyoming line and northwest of Bridgeport. A long, bench-like colluvial slope forms the south side of most of the valley in Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties. The flood plain proper has a considerable area of silt loam to sandy and gravelly soils, part of which is poorly drained.

There are several soils in the North Platte Valley, varying from silt loam to the nearly barren slopes of the rough broken land. The soils with largest distribution are classed with the Epping, Mitchell, Bridgeport, Tripp, Laurel, and Minatare series, which are described in the soil surveys of Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties. Much of the agricultural land is farmed under irrigation and valued at \$150 to \$500 an acre. There is intensive farming of the best land. Among the main crops are beets, alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, corn, and potatoes. Vegetables and fruit

of several kinds are grown. There are a number of good towns and cities in the valley served by the Burlington and Union Pacific railroads.

Box Butte Table is between the North Platte and Niobrara valleys and bordered on the east by the Sandhill Region. The surface of the table ranges from nearly flat to undulating, rolling and rough, and is modified at places by small sandhill areas. The borders near the Platte and Niobrara are roughened by numerous ravines and canyons.

The soils of Box Butte Table are classed with the Rosebud, Dunlap, Yale, Tripp, Laurel, and Valentine series. The Rosebud and Dunlap soils are similar to those of Cheyenne Table. (See soil survey of Box Butte County.)

The Rosebud soils are scattered generally, but the Dunlap silt loam occurs principally to the west and southwest of Hemingford. It has a brown to dark brown surface soil 6 to 12 inches deep, underlain by a dark brown compact heavy silt loam which passes gradually through a grayish-brown, heavy silt loam into a light, floury calcareous silt loam. The type occupies high, flat areas.

High terraces in the vicinity of Alliance are capped with the Yale silt loam and very fine sandy loam which carry considerable clay. The low terraces of Snake Creek Valley are covered with the Tripp very fine sandy loam.

The Valentine loamy fine sand occurs in the southern and eastern parts of Box Butte County. The principal soils on the bottom land of Snake Creek are the Laurel silt loam and fine sandy loam. They are poorly drained and alkali in spots.

The Box Butte soils are used extensively for grazing and dry farming. They grow large yields of wheat, corn and potatoes. Land values are a little lower than on Cheyenne Table.

Niobrara Valley has three distinct courses or divisions in Nebraska. Two of them separate parts of the High Plains, and the third division is in the northern part of the Sandhill Region. The western course of the valley lies between Box Butte and Dawes tables. It is narrow and bordered by rough lands near the Wyoming line, but widens considerably across Sioux, Dawes, and Box Butte counties where there are bold, rounded grass covered slopes and some broken stony land. The soil with largest distribution on the valley sides is the shallow phase of the Rosebud very fine sandy loam underlain with sand and stone. The valley floor is divided between low benches and the flood plain proper. The benches are occupied principally by the Tripp sandy loam and some fine sandy loam. The first bottom soils are the Laurel fine sandy loam and very fine sandy loam.

Much of the western part of the Niobrara Valley is grazed. Parts are dry farmed and irrigated.

The sandhill course of the Niobrara Valley is narrow and deep and closely bordered by sandhills and stony land.

The lower course of the valley which is east of Valentine is narrow U-shaped to V-shaped. The slopes east of Keyapaha and Rock counties are more gradual and occupied in most of their parts by the Pierre shale, which forms a very heavy soil similar to that of the northern parts of Hat Creek and White River basins, but occurring under a heavier rainfall.

The Pierre clay soils extend into the Ponca Creek Valley as far west as the town of Butte. They occupy much of the slopes bordering the Niobrara in Boyd and Knox counties.

Dawes Table extends through Sioux, Dawes, and Sheridan counties. It is between Niobrara Valley and Pine Ridge, but is not distinctly set off from the latter. The surface grades from a typical table in Dawes County to a rolling surface in Sheridan and Sioux counties. Some parts are badly dissected.

The soils of Dawes Table are classed with the Rosebud and Dunlap series and resemble those of Box Butte and Cheyenne tables. The Rosebud very fine sandy loam and a shallow phase of the type occupy much of the rolling land. The Dunlap silt loam is on the flat table. Much of the table is successfully dry farmed to wheat, rye, corn, and potatoes. Lands are advancing in value.

Pine Ridge is a mountainous country of irregular form, which in a general way lies between Dawes Table, Hat Creek, and White River basins. It was eroded of the High Plains. The north face of Pine Ridge is very steep at most places. It contains deep canyons, prominent cliffs, and long steep slopes. There are two escarpments or cliff elements in this face of the ridge, one of them lying just below the table land level and the other coming down to the borders of Hat Creek and White River basins. There are a number of park land areas between these rough parts of Pine Ridge.

Much of the Pine Ridge country is covered with scattered pine trees. The steeper slopes are bare and the more gradual ones are grass covered. Parts of the park land are farmed. Soils range between stony land and the Rosebud very fine sandy loam.

Hat Creek Basin occupies the extreme northwestern part of the state and extends into South Dakota. It slopes away from Pine Ridge. The southern part of the basin is composed of long rounded slopes and low butte-like forms. The soils of this division are classed under two series, Dawes and Epping. They form the so-called yellow gumbo belt, which is less heavy than the name would indicate. The soils range between silt loam and fine sandy loam.

The northern part of Hat Creek Basin is occupied by billowy hills developed on the Pierre shale. The soils range between clay and a clay loam. They are dark gray to brownish, quite thin at places, become very sticky when wet, and hard when dry.

Much of Hat Creek Basin is gravel. Some is dry farmed and small areas are irrigated. Land values are held back because of inadequate transportation facilities.

White River Basin is bordered on the south and west by the steep slopes of Pine Ridge, from which open many small valleys. The lower slopes of the ridge are long and billowy. They were formed on the Brule clay and part of the soil is classed as Epping silt loam. The more gradual slopes have a deep silt loam soil with a heavy middle layer. This type is called the Dawes silt loam. The two soils just named form a belt which reaches northward to White River in most of Dawes County and follows northwestward around the edge of Pine Ridge on the west. These soils become slippery, but not very muddy, when wet. They are grazed and successfully dry farmed.

The northern part of White River Basin is the well-known dark gumbo land formed on Pierre shale. The soil is very heavy and sticky when wet. Much of it is grazed, some is farmed, principally to small grains.

The valleys of White River Basin have narrow flood plains and bench lands. The bench land soils, which range between silt loam and fine sandy loam, are dry farmed and irrigated.

Springview Table is in Keyapaha County, but extends short distances in Cherry and Boyd counties. Its surface is divided between hard smooth land, rough broken land, loose sandy soil, and small dunesand areas. Much of the hard land contains gravel at or near the surface. This table is grazed and dry farmed. Its isolated position is a drawback.

Ainsworth Table, in northern Brown County, is nearly surrounded by sandhills. The surface is smooth to rough and divided between hard land and small areas of dunesand and Valentine soils. The soil with the largest distribution is the Rosebud fine sandy loam. A small area of silty clay occurs east of Bassett. Ainsworth Table is used for pasturage, the production of native hay and for farming. It is well developed at places. Much prairie hay is produced here.

Holt Plain, in northern Holt County, and southwestern Knox County, is the easternmost area of the High Plains Region. It is quite smooth on the upland proper, but rough near Brush, Eagle, Bird and Verdigre creeks. Most of the plain is hard land, but parts are sandy.

The soils with largest distribution are known as O'Neill loam, O'Neill gravelly loam and Valentine sand. Sandy soils, which blow, occur in the north and north-eastern parts of the plain.

The O'Neill loam is a dark gray to brown loam about 10 inches deep, underlain by 10 to 15 inches of light yellowish-brown clay loam, below which is a thick bed of sand and gravel. The gravelly loam type has a thin surface soil and coarse subsoil.

In recent years, most of the best land of Holt Plain has come under successful cultivation. Some of the land has advanced to more than \$150 an acre. Wheat, corn, oats and native hay are the main crops.

In Nebraska there has been found, indeed, many traces of a pre-glacial race of man. Discoveries of stone implements, and then chiefly flint arrow heads and spear-heads have been made deep, in undisturbed loess beds, side by side with bones of the mastodon and the huge elk of this period. So we may well presume that man roamed the Nebraska plains ages before the advent of the long glacial winter.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Before passing to a further review of the development, and especially of the populating, of Nebraska, we may well pause for a brief survey of her natural physical features.

LOCATION

Nebraska, the Land of Shallow Water, lies at the geographical center of the United States, and is bounded by parallels 40° and 43' North and longitude 95° 20' on east and 104° west. The extreme length of the state from east to west is 420 miles, and its breadth from north to south is 208.5 miles. In area it comprises 77,510 square miles, or 49,606,400 acres, of which nearly 500,000 acres represent water.

ALTITUDES

The state stretches from the foothills of the Rockies to the Missouri, having a gentle, gradual eastward slope. The western half averages more than 2,500 feet above the sea, to only 1,200 in the eastern half.

The highest point of elevation in the state is in northwestern Kimball County, at 5,300 feet. Scotts Bluff reaches fully 6,000 feet in height, while Richardson County is only 878 feet above the sea.

RIVERS

Nebraska is drained entirely by the Missouri and its tributaries. In contrast to the past geological times, there are no large lakes in Nebraska, though there are many small lakes. Many springs, wells and artesian wells dot various parts of the state. A remarkable artesian well of Nebraska is the one in the public square of Lincoln, 1,050 feet deep. At between 70 and 250 deep, strong brine was encountered, but it did not come to the surface. At 560 feet, saline water came up in a powerful current. Saline springs have been encountered, especially around Lincoln and in its neighboring county, Seward.

The *Missouri River*. Not only is this one of the chief rivers of the Republic, but by all means the chief river of Nebraska. Rising in Montana, at the eastern edge, and traversing North and South Dakota, it comes to the north state line of Nebraska at a point approximately one hundred miles west of the east side of the state, and forming the entire eastern border of the state, borders Nebraska for something like 500 miles. It is deep and rapid. Its bed is moving sand, mud and alluvium, and nowhere in its Nebraska career has it a rock bottom. Professor Samuel Aughey, Professor of Natural Sciences in University of Nebraska, in the early '80s, had described this stream:—

"Its immediate banks, sometimes on both, and almost always on one side, are steep, often, indeed, perpendicular or leaning over toward the water. It is generally retreating or advancing from or on to one or other shore. It is the shore from which it is retreating that is sometimes gently sloping, while the one toward which it is advancing is steep. This steepness is produced by the undermining of the banks and the caving in that follows. Near the bottom there is a stratum of sand, which, being struck by the current, is washed out and the bank falls in. Many acres in some places have been carried away in a single season. The principal part of this 'cutting' is done while the river is falling. When the river is low and winding through bottoms fringed with, in many places, dark groves of cottonwood and other timber, it is a sad, melancholy, weird stream. When it is on a 'big rise' however, and presses forward with tremendous volume and force toward the Gulf, it becomes surpassingly grand and majestic. It is now full of eddies and whole trees that have been dragged forward at a fearful velocity. It is never fordable. Boats of various kinds were exclusively used for crossing the river until the advent of the railroad bridges at Omaha and Plattsmouth. The water is always muddy or full of finely comminuted sand, the current rapid and full of whirling eddies. It is a dangerous stream to trifle with. So well understood, however, is this feature of the Missouri, that no more persons are drowned in it than in other rivers of corresponding size. * * * Had it not been for the Missouri, the settlement of this region would have been indefinitely delayed. As the Missouri is navigable for 2,000 miles above Omaha, it was a great highway for traffic with the mountain regions of the Dakotas and Montana. Since the building of railroads, its business has fallen off."

The *Platte River* is the next river in importance to the Missouri. Its head-

waters originate in the mountains, and some of them in lakes fed by the ever-lasting snows. By the time it reaches Nebraska it is broad, shallow, sandy, but still flows with a rapid current. It flows through the whole length of the state. It is not navigable, but has been bridged at all of the important towns along its course. The south fork, commonly called the South Platte, enters the state from Colorado and flows eastward to North Platte at which point it joins the north fork, called the North Platte, which comes in from Wyoming, near latitude 42. There is usually a good volume of water in the stream, though at times of low water it can be forded. The average volume of water at North Platte is greater than at its mouth, but its various tributaries, Elkhorn, Papillion, Shell Creek, Loup and Wood rivers bring in a new supply.

The *Republican River*, the next important stream, rises in the Colorado plains near Range 49 of Sixth Principal Meridian west. At the state line, it is only a few feet across. Seven miles east it picks up Arickaree, and becomes shallow, sandy, and in places rapid. Various tributaries then joining it are: Frenchman's fork, near Culbertson; Driftwood Creek, near McCook; Sappa Creek, near Orleans; Beaver Creek, near Orleans; the latter three coming from the southwest; Red Willow and Medicine creeks come in from the northwest. An immense number of creeks flow in every few miles especially from the north. It might be noted that the general level of the Republican River is approximately 350 feet below that of the Platte. This descent from the Platte gives the Republican the natural drainage of the intervening territory. This river, unlike the Platte, increases regularly in breadth and volume from its source to its exit from the state in Nuckolls County, slightly over a hundred miles west of the southeastern corner of the state. It comes in from Kansas and goes back into Kansas.

The *Niobrara River* also flows almost entirely across the state, coming in from Wyoming and entering the Missouri River near the town of Niobrara. From its source to its mouth it is 460 miles long. Its source is 5,100 feet above sea level. It is very narrow at its entrance into the state, but gradually widens. For 189 miles it continues through a canyon of high and steep walls. Upon emergence from this canyon, it becomes a broad, rapid and sandy stream. It has some tributaries of importance. First, on the south side is the Verdigris, in Knox County, and joins the Niobrara six miles from its mouth. There are a great many small tributaries between the Verdigris and the Keya Paha. Snake River, joining in Cherry County is the next important tributary. The Keya Paha, coming in from the north, is about 125 miles long.

The White River flows through northwestern Nebraska. It comes in from Wyoming and flows northeasterward, entering South Dakota a little east of longitude 103. It has many small tributaries in its course through the corner of Nebraska.

The *Elkhorn River* is a very beautiful river. It rises west of Holt County. In the region of its source, the valley widens to a very great breadth, and in that vicinity are many small fresh-water lakes. Within a certain region, eighteen by twelve miles square, there are at least twenty of these lakelets, most of which drain into the head waters of the West Fork of the Elkhorn. In the eastern border of Madison County this stream receives the North Branch of the Elkhorn, which rises in the southern part of Knox County. That fork originates in a region of innumerable small springs. The Elkhorn empties into the Platte in the western

part of Sarpy County. Its most important tributary is the Logan, which rises principally in Cedar County. This river is a family of branches so numerous it is hard to distinguish which is the main river. A junction is finally formed with the Elkhorn in eastern Dodge County.

The *Loup Rivers*, form the other important tributary of the Platte, not heretofore mentioned. The whole length of the Middle, or main Loup, approximates 250 miles. It rises a little east of the 102 parallel and fifty miles from the north line of the state. Leaving Cherry County, it traverses Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, northeastern Custer, southwestern corner of Valley, Sherman, Howard, Nance and Platte counties. Its first important tributary is Beaver Creek and then *Cedar River*, which starts up in Garfield County comes on down through Wheeler and Boone counties to its junction in Nance County.

The *North Loup River* rises from a small cluster of lakes, a little east of the 101 Meridian and 45 miles from the north line of the state, in Cherry County. This region is likewise studded with small, but beautiful lakes. Calamus Creek, which joins the North Loup in Garfield County, near Burwell, is the first important tributary. The entire length of this Loup until its junction with the main or Middle Loup is about 150 miles. Professor Aughey remarked some forty years ago: "Perhaps there is no more interesting and beautiful valley in all Nebraska than the North Loup. Corn and the cereal grains, as elsewhere in the state, are most successfully cultivated."

On the south side of the Main or Middle Loup, the main tributaries are Mud Creek, which rises at Broken Bow and runs down into Buffalo County, and the *South Loup*. The latter rises in Logan County, just west of the border of Custer County, and traverses that great county, on across wide Buffalo County, and joins the Middle Loup in Howard County. The Loup Rivers have a wonderful rush of waters that have led to their being pronounced by able authorities as among the greatest potential electro-hydro producers in the country.

The *Nemahas* early became noted rivers in Nebraska. The north branch of the Nemaha runs in a southeasterly direction diagonally through Johnson and Richardson counties, until it unites with the main river in that county. Its length is about 60 miles and it increases regularly in size.

The main Nemaha rises in Pawnee County, takes a southerly direction into Kansas, then turns northeast into Richardson County and then flows a little south of east, until it unites with the Missouri near the southeast corner of the state. Its length is but sixty miles but it receives so many tributaries that its magnitude at its mouth equals that of many larger and longer rivers. The Little Nemaha is a smaller addition of the Big Nemaha.

The *Blues* are the important rivers of the east-central part of the state, of those running northerly and southerly. The main branch, being 132 miles long, drains eight counties, among the best in the state. The Middle Fork of the Blue rises in Hamilton County, traverses York County and unites with the North Blue at Seward. Its length is about sixty miles. The West Fork unites with the Main Blue five miles above Crete, in Saline County, after coming in through York and Seward counties. School Creek, Beaver Creek and Turkey Creek are important tributaries. Professor Aughey described the Blue Rivers, as follows: "All of these Blue Rivers and their tributaries are remarkable for the amount of water which they carry off and the great beauty of the bottom lands through which they pass. It

is doubtful whether the mind could imagine a section better supplied with rivers, creeks, and rivulets, giving an abundance of mill power and other water privileges." There is still another Blue River that rises in Adams County, and comes down through Clay and Thayer counties and passes out of the state in Jefferson County, and, in Kansas, finally unites with the Big Blue.

There are yet many other rivers which have not been gone into with any detail of treatment. Among these are the Bow rivers in northeastern Nebraska, mainly in Cedar County. Salt Creek, named from the number of saline springs that drain into it, and which circles about the city of Lincoln; Weeping Water, in Cass County; the Wahoo, in Saunders County; Elk Creek, in Dakota County; and South and West Iowa Creeks, in Dixon County.

THE CLIMATE OF NEBRASKA

By George A. Loveland, Meteorologist, U. S. Weather Bureau

The principal elements of climate are temperature, humidity, rainfall, sunshine, wind, and storm. For Nebraska, they are as follows:

Temperature. The average temperature of this state decreases from east to west and south to north. The mean is 51° in the southeast, 50° in the southwest, 48° in the northeast, and about 45° in the northwest. The highest temperature on record, 115° , was in 1918, and the lowest, 47° below zero, in 1899. From 1876 to 1918, a period of forty-two years, the average temperature of the state was 48.6° .

January, the coldest month, has a mean temperature of 28.1° , being 25° in the southeast and about 20° in the north. February and December are slightly warmer. July is the warmest month, although the hottest days of the year may occur in June, July, August, or September. August is slightly below July and thereafter the decline in temperature is gradual. Summer evenings usually are cool compared with mid-day.

Frosts. The growing season (free from frosts) is about 160 days in the southeastern counties and 130 days in the northwest. Spring approaches the state from the southeast and fall and winter enter from the northwest.

Light frosts sometimes occur throughout May and in early June in the northwestern counties. The last killing frost of spring in the eastern counties is usually in late April or early in May. It is from May 10th to 15th in the northern and western parts of the state.

Humidity. The relative humidity averages about 70 per cent in Nebraska. It is highest in mornings and lowest in the early afternoon. It is higher in winter than in summer. The western counties have a lower humidity than the eastern counties. There is a close relation between the relative humidity and the amount of precipitation.

Rainfall. The average rainfall for the state between 1876 and 1918 was 23.64 inches. The eastern counties have more precipitation than the western counties. There is a gradual decrease in amount from east to west. The annual rainfall for different parts of the state the past forty-two years is as follows:

Southeastern part 29.87 inches.

Northeastern part 27.43 inches.

Central part 24.49 inches.

Southwestern part 23.03 inches.

Northwestern part 19.11 inches.

Western part 17.72 inches.

The records show some fluctuation in the amount of rainfall by periods of years, but no definite and reliable statement can be made regarding the distribution of these periods and their probable occurrence in the future.

The rainfall occurs principally in the spring and summer months. The wet season, May to July, inclusive, has 46 per cent of the annual rainfall. The heaviest and most evenly distributed rainfall comes in June and decreases to January, which has less than one-sixth that of June. The June rainfall is over 5 inches in the southeastern counties, and less than 3 inches in the west. The driest period of the year, so far as the effects of precipitation and evaporation on crops is concerned, is apt to be in July and August.

The annual monthly rainfall for the state from 1876 to 1918, which shows the heaviest precipitation during the growing season, is as follows:

January .....	.52 inches
February .....	.72 inches
March	1.11 inches
April	2.41 inches
May	3.63 inches
June	3.81 inches
July	3.43 inches
August	2.81 inches
September	2.13 inches
October	1.57 inches
November .....	.68 inches
December .....	.74 inches

The dry season comes from November to February with 11 per cent of the annual amount of moisture. Most of the precipitation of these months is snow, which averages 28 inches, making $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of water. The average amount of snow increases from November to January and February.

Sunshine. The state, as a whole, has a comparatively large amount of sunshine. The cloudiness is greatest in the eastern and southeastern counties and comes in association with rain and snow.

Winds. The average wind velocity, though not exactly known, is about 9 miles per hour for the state. It averages highest in the western counties and lowest in the southeast. March and April are the windiest months, with averages of 10.6 and 11.5 miles per hour. July and August, the calmest, average 7.4 and 7.7 miles per hour. The highest velocities of record have occurred in thunder storms. The maximum has been about 80 miles per hour.

The prevailing wind direction is from the north and northwest from October to May; from the south and southeast in May, June, and July; and from the south from August to September.

Storms. Cyclones are the movements of air over large areas which bring to Nebraska the rainfall, change in cloudiness, and temperature and sometimes develop

storm conditions, especially in the southeastern part. Tornadoes coming also in association with the cyclones are not very common. Far the largest amount of damage done in the state was during the year of the well-known Omaha tornado.

Destructive hail storms are of record. The effect is over small areas.

Healthful Climate. Viewed as a whole, the climate of the state may be regarded as healthful beyond the average. Under the wide range of conditions in elevation, between altitudes of the 840 feet and 5,340 feet, and because of the range in temperature, sunshine, humidity, cloudiness and precipitation, one may select a place in the state to suit the required conditions as may relate to healthfulness.

NEBRASKA'S GAME RESOURCES

By Robert H. Wolcott, Head of Department of Zoology, The University of Nebraska,
and Frank H. Shoemaker, of the Nebraska Conservation and Soil
Survey, The University of Nebraska

GAME

To the red men who roamed these plains and prairies before the advent of the whites, the territory which is now Nebraska formed part of a veritable happy hunting ground. To them the numerous herds of buffalo, deer, elk and antelope which dotted the open country in all directions, or which sought the protection of the fringes of timber along the streams, together with the vast numbers of water fowl which frequented both the streams and prairie lakes and sloughs, formed very nearly an all-sufficient resource. The flesh of this game provided them with meat, the hides both clothed them and furnished them with shelter, and many articles were made from fur, feathers, horns, or other parts, which meant to them luxury in personal adornment, in the pomp of tribal ceremonials, and even in the performance of religious worship.

The presence of these same animals was the attraction which brought the first white settlers to this region, these being the trappers, who came to themselves collect furs, and the traders, whose object was to barter various manufactured articles for the skins and furs of the Indians. These were followed by the gold-seekers whose wagon-trains wound wearily across the plains toward the Eldorado in the West, oblivious to the potential agricultural wealth of the country they traversed, but keenly appreciative of the opportunities which the abundance of game presented. Gradually permanent settlements were established, and many a pioneer of the great army that was to follow, once the fertility of the soil had become generally known, found in the game a means of maintenance in time of hunger and destitution.

The abundance of game and ease of procuring it led to thoughtless waste. The commercial value of buffalo hides tempted the cupidity of men who engaged in the slaughter of these animals by thousands, stripping the carcass of its hide and leaving it to rot on the ground; the skins were so numerous in the east a half-century ago that the buffalo robe became an indispensable adjunct of a sleigh ride. The herds of wild animals were rapidly exterminated and immense numbers of cattle took their place on "the range"; more recently the open range has in its turn disappeared and the barbed wire fences of farms and ranches today extend clear across this state.

But long after the larger game mammals had been destroyed, countless numbers

of game birds traversed our territory twice a year in their migrations and many made their homes here and reared their young. Nebraska became the mecca for the sportsmen of the middle west, and even attracted many from the far east. Market hunting became a profitable employment and a considerable number of men engaged in it not only in Nebraska but in neighboring states. The supply of feathered game seemed limitless and no voice was effectively raised against the slaughter, which went on ceaselessly from British America to the Gulf with hardly an intermission even in the breeding season. Game laws were placed among the statutes of Nebraska as far back as 1860, but for a long time thereafter were rarely enforced. In 1900, Congress passed the Lacey Act, which was aimed to check the traffic in game, and began a nation wide campaign in favor of game conservation. The Nebraska Legislature of 1901 enacted admirable laws, including provisions for the appointment of a force of wardens, and since that time a strong public opinion has been developed in this state in favor of their strict enforcement.

In many parts of the country, however, particularly in the South, public sentiment was not aroused and the wasteful slaughter continued. Song birds, not in any sense game, and of too great value as enemies of insect pests to be killed for food, were being destroyed in these states, often in large numbers. The "pump-gun" and the automatic added greatly to the effectiveness of the individual hunter and with the increase of the number of hunters due to increasing population, the efforts of the states in which an enlightened public sentiment did exist and in which well devised game laws were being successfully enforced, were insufficient to check the rapid diminution in the numbers of our migratory game birds, which threatened their complete extinction in a future not far distant. At this juncture the national government again interposed and the passage of the migratory bird law, the provisions of which have been more recently incorporated into a treaty with Great Britain, has laid the foundation for nation wide and uniform restriction of the shooting of game with a view of conserving this resource that future generations may share in its utilization.

No argument is needed to show that the continued presence of the vast herds of large game mammals was incompatible with the settlement of our state and the development of its agricultural resources. But the existence of an abundant game bird population is not inconsistent with the highest degree of cultivation of the soil and the maximum utilization of all our natural resources. No sane man would place the welfare of wild animals before the interests of human society, but on the other hand no wise man would neglect to utilize to its fullest extent the natural wealth of the region in which he lived or subscribe to a spendthrift policy which would result in the waste by his generation of resources which might be both enjoyed in moderation by himself and transmitted unimpaired to his children and to his children's children.

MAMMALS*

Former Nebraska game mammals, now extinct, impounded, or protected throughout the year.

The Elk was formerly found abundantly in all parts of the state, but disappeared

*Many of the statements here given are taken from "A Preliminary Review of the Mammals of Nebraska," by Prof. M. H. Suenk, published conjointly by the University and the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, September, 1908.

in the early '80s. A fine herd is now maintained on the game reservation east of Valentine, and there are a few more in captivity in the parks of Omaha and Lincoln.

The Plains White-tailed Deer was formerly common in all the wooded valleys of the state, but settlement of the country has caused its gradual extermination, until at the present time it is found only in the northwest corner, in the wildest canyons of the Pine Ridge country, and in very limited numbers. Though protected by the game laws throughout the year, this animal is marked for total extinction within our borders, as has been the case with the white-tailed deer in many sections east of Nebraska.

The Black-tailed Deer was the common deer of early Nebraska, found alike in woodland, plains, prairie and sandhill regions, but it has now almost wholly disappeared. One small band of about twenty-five animals still existed in the sandhills of the Dismal River region about ten years ago, and at that time was being given all the protection possible by the ranchers of the vicinity; the recent history of this herd is not known.

The Pronghorn Antelope was originally found over the entire area of the state, but is now heard from only as small bands are reported from time to time in the extreme western part of Nebraska, most of them perhaps having crossed our boundary from Wyoming or Colorado. There are, however, stationary bands in Sioux County, nearly due west of Alliance, and in Garden County, near Crescent Lake. A young one was observed near Sidney in 1918.

The Bad Lands Mountain Sheep was found in small numbers on Court House Rock, in Scotts Bluff County, until the late '70s, and one animal of this species was noted as far east as Birdwood Creek, near North Platte.

The American Bison, or Buffalo, was formerly present in enormous numbers in all parts of Nebraska. The last of the wild animals were killed in the early '80s. A small herd is impounded in the game reservation near Valentine and is in a thriving condition. This animal affords the most prominent example of the waste of a natural game resource. It existed previous to the middle of the last century to the number of many millions, scattered over the whole of the plains region. Killed in gradually increasing numbers up to the '60s, it was systematically exterminated in the '70s and early '80s. Only the hides were utilized, and of these on the average only one-half were saved; most of the meat was wasted. Though the animals were of an inoffensive disposition, and the calves were easily domesticated, no attempts seem to have been made to bring the species under domestication till after its destruction was practically complete.

The Black Bear was formerly found in Nebraska, principally in the northern part, but never commonly, as it is a forest animal.

The Plains Grizzly Bear is said to have occurred in the extreme northwest corner of the state in early days, but no definite records exist.

WILD LIFE RESOURCES

This group of natural assets receives too little attention. The only policy for several years, if it can be called such, has been to destroy the wild life without regard to consequence. The time has come, however, when wanton destruction should cease that progress may be made along lines determined by technical knowledge.

The destruction of certain kinds of wild life means waste which cannot be

replaced with domesticated forms. There are in Nebraska a number of animals which serve continually and successfully and which the people destroy without regard to their usefulness. They are the animals which keep down insects, mice, gophers, and rats. Most of the song birds, the quail, several of the hawks, the owls, toads, bats, and some of the snakes assist in maintaining a condition necessary for agricultural development. Among the wild life resources, aside from the animals which maintain the biological balance, are grasses, forest, fruit, fish, game, and fur-bearing animals.

WILD GRASS RESOURCES

· By Raymond J. Pool, Professor of Botany, The University of Nebraska

When white men first saw the area now included in the state of Nebraska, the landscape was dominated by a vast, rolling stretch of native grassland, whereas today much of the state, and particularly the eastern part, is farmed and it is difficult to find a piece of prairie in the agricultural sections large enough to give one a fair idea of the original conditions. Large areas of prairie occur, however, in the central and western counties.

Prairie a Resource. Wherever the prairie sod is broken and the soil cultivated for a few years, the wild native grasses and other native plants disappear. Those which remain are to be found only along the fences and the roadsides. We would not deplore this destruction of the original prairie vegetation because of the important agricultural pursuits which have been developed by the pioneers and their descendants. But the high price of meat directs the thoughts of a larger proportion of our people than ever before to the question of meat production and to the circumstances immediately surrounding the live stock industry.

Enormous supplies of essential food products are being produced by the herds of live stock which thrive upon the native forage of the remaining grazing land, but days of the open range are past and the stock raising industries are rapidly becoming more highly specialized as is farming in general.

Much of the natural grazing land of western Nebraska has come into the hands of large operators, who face the problems of efficient ranch management. This brings them to a consideration of native and introduced pasture plants and the best methods of handling the same. Much of the grazing country is covered by the finest natural forage, yet considerable areas of it go to waste every summer, while some also is abused and destroyed by over-grazing. Most of the natural grazing land is in the Sandhill Region which is admirably adapted by nature for cattle raising.

Many Grasses in Nebraska. The natural forage problem is largely one of native grasses and how to utilize them. Some lands of central and western Nebraska are peculiarly rich in the number and value of grasses and other forage plants, including many species of sedges, which resemble true grasses so closely that few people distinguish them from the grasses.

Nutritious Grasses. The two most nutritious grasses of the whole list are Buffalo Grass and Blue Grama Grass. These are widespread and abundant on the hard land of the central and western counties where they form a dense sod. The Sand Grama is quite common on sandy soil throughout the Sandhill Region. The above grasses are not only fine for summer forage, but they may also afford winter pasture. I have seen hundreds of acres covered with a fine stand of these grasses that

were not being pastured at all, a condition which should not obtain where the price of meat is so high.

The Buffalo and Grama grasses are low, densely growing forms quite different from the tall prairie grasses which once dominated eastern Nebraska, and which prevail at the present time in the sandhills. There are about 125 species of grasses growing in the sandhills, among which the following are prominent: Little Blue Stem, Turkeyfoot Grass, Indian Millet, Sheep Fescue, Poverty Grass, Redfield's Grass, Blow-out Grass, Sand Grass, Prairie Grass, Low Blow-out Grass, and Triple Awn Grass.

FOREST RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey .

Nebraska has more forest, native and planted, than is generally supposed. The natural forest occurs along streams, on rough lands bordering valleys, and on the rough uplands of the western and northwestern counties. The distribution is scattered and there are no exclusively forested areas.

Broad-leaf Trees. The principal trees of valley bottoms are willows, cottonwoods, elms, hackberry, boxelder, and green ash.

Willows are represented by a number of species, of which the sandbar, black, almond-leaf, and glossy forms are the most common.

Cottonwoods are widely distributed. The broad-leaf form has the greatest range; the lance-leaf form is in some of the canyons of Pine Ridge and Wildcat Ridge, and the western or narrow-leaf cottonwood is reported in Banner County.

Elms are represented principally by the white elm and the red elm, but the cork elm has limited distribution.

Hackberry occurs on most of the alluvial lands of the state in association with elms, cottonwoods, and other broad-leaf species.

The boxelder is one of the principal stream-side trees of the state. It is quite plentiful in most of the bottom land forest, and leads in numbers at many places.

Green and red ash are common in many valleys in association with boxelder and other trees, but the white ash is restricted to the lowlands of the eastern counties.

The soft maple grows on the lowlands of counties bordering or near the Missouri, and the hard maple is found in some planted groves.

The sycamore is represented on the alluvial lands of the Missouri and its tributaries from Omaha southward. There are only a few trees.

The honey locust and the Kentucky coffee tree are found in the natural forest along the Missouri and the lower course of the Niobrara, and the former occurs also in the lower part of the Republican Valley.

The buckeye is in the extreme southeast corner of the state.

The bluffs of the eastern counties support oaks, basswood, hickories, and a few other trees.

The oaks are represented principally by the red oak and the bur oak, the latter having wide range on the rough valley sides of the eastern, southern, and northern parts of the state. Some of the best stands are in the Niobrara and its tributaries, as at Wood Lake, Long Pine, and Valentine. This tree is in practically pure stands at some of these places. The black oak, scarlet oak, white oak, swamp white oak,

chestnut oak, and the black jack oak have been identified in the southeastern corner of the state.

Hickories are represented by four species, but the shellbark and bittersweet are most common. They occur on the flood plains and rough lands bordering valleys of the southeastern counties.

Mountain maple, black birch, and a few representatives of quaking aspen occur in the canyons of Pine Ridge.

The paper birch grows on some of the steep slopes of the Niobrara Valley, the best stands being about ten miles east of Valentine.

Pines and Cedars. Pines occur at a number of places in the western part of the state. Growing among the pines are red cedar and a few junipers. Most pines occur in the Pine Ridge, Wildcat Ridge, North Platte and Lodge Pole areas, occupying about 500 square miles. The trees are at their best on Pine Ridge, being 12 to 24 inches in diameter and 40 feet or more high. The trees are quite free from disease and the timber is of good quality. Pines are also found in good stands along the Niobrara, as in Schlagle Canyon south of Valentine, north of Ainsworth, and in Long Pine Canyon. The broad-leaf species of the east and the pines and cedars from the west meet along the Niobrara.

Forest Reserves. The federal government has experimented with tree planting near Halsey, and shown conclusively that certain species can be grown on the sandhills of Nebraska. Many ranchmen, profiting by this experience, have beautified their places and grown large wind breaks for protection. The Reserve now has several hundred acres of very good pine forest which can be seen from the Burlington trains as they pass through the Middle Loup Valley above Halsey.

WILD FRUITS

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

The wild fruits of most importance in Nebraska are gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, grapes, chokecherries, and the sand cherry, plum, buffalo berry, crab apple, elderberry, and pawpaw.

The Common Gooseberry is on most of the bottom lands of the eastern and southeastern parts of the state where there is forest. It comes into fruitage early in the year and the fruit is eagerly sought by many people from the country and towns. The western wild gooseberry is found principally in the northwestern counties. The red raspberry and the black raspberry are found on the slope lands of the timber belts. They give a limited amount of food. The wild currant is quite plentiful at places in the canyons of the Pine Ridge and Niobrara areas. It also occurs in the ravines bordering the North Platte.

Wild Grapes of two kinds occur in the state, being found in practically every county with timber. They are the early wild grape and the summer grape. The fruit of these has considerable value, especially along the Missouri and in the Frenchman and Niobrara valleys.

Wild Cherries of four species grow in Nebraska. They are the wild black cherry of the eastern counties, the sand cherry of the sandhills, the western chokecherry and the common chokecherry.

The Sand Cherry is a valuable fruit. It grows on very sandy ground, principally

on the sandhills and at places on the high plains of western Nebraska. The ranchmen gather this fruit in large quantities and use it for a number of purposes as for jelly, jams, sauce and wine.

Chokecherries are widely distributed in the state. The western form produces large amounts of fruit, which are used for jellies, butter and other purposes. The chokecherry is a common plant along the Niobrara and its tributaries, in the canyons of the Pine Ridge, along parts of the Platte, and at places in the Loup and Elkhorn valleys.

The Buffalo Berry, sometimes called the bull berry, grows along most streams and ravines of the western and central counties. The plant is a strong branching shrub, 3 to 8 feet high, and with thorns and light colored leaves. The fruit is reddish when ripe. Probably most fruit of this kind is produced in the North Platte Valley on sandy land near the river. The fruit is gathered in large quantities late in the fall and used principally for jellies and jams.

The Wild Plum has wide distribution in Nebraska. It is especially abundant in the Frenchman, Medicine and Niobrara valleys. The fruit is used for butter and sauce.

The Western Crab Apple is present, but not plentiful in the state, occurring principally in the southeastern counties.

The Elderberry grows abundantly near streams in the southeastern counties. It is used to some extent for jams and preserves.

The Pawpaw grows along the Missouri in the southeastern part of the state. It is most plentiful at or near Nebraska City, Peru, Brownville, Nemaha and Rulo. The ripe fruit is eaten raw.

Nuts grow in parts of Nebraska. Hazelnuts occur in some of the timber areas of the southeastern counties. The hickory nut is found in this part of the state and the black walnut is more widely distributed.

FISH RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

Nebraska has several kinds of fish in small streams, rivers, natural lakes, and artificial lakes. The following are the principal kinds: Channel cat, bullhead, crappie, pike, perch, trout, sunfish, carp and buffalo.

A subdivision of the State Department of Agriculture looks after the propagation, distribution and protection of fish, licensing and the enforcement of fish and game laws. There are three state fish hatcheries in Nebraska. A chief game warden and many deputy wardens are employed to conserve the fish resources of the state.

Speckled and Rainbow Trout occur in many of the small, swift streams of the northwestern part of the state, as in the Pine Ridge area and in tributaries of the middle course of the Niobrara. Some of the trout streams are Monroe Creek, Sow Belly Creek, West Hat Creek, East Hat Creek, White River, Big Bordeaux, White Clay, Boardman, above its junction with the Snake, Schlagle, Minnechadusa, McFarland and Plum creeks. Trout occur also in the drainage ditches of the North Platte Valley and at the head waters of the Elkhorn and Loup rivers. One can find very good sport among the trout of Nebraska.

Bass of different kinds, of which the big-mouthed species is the most representa-

tive, grow in several natural and artificial lakes throughout the state and fishing is very good at some of these places. At one time bass fishing was best in some of the sandhill lakes. Most fish here were winter-killed in 1915. Lakes were again stocked and fishing has become quite good. Beaver, Rat, Hackberry, Red Deer, Dewey, Willow, Enders, and Center lakes are well known bass lakes. Willow Lake is the best bass breeding ground in the state. Bass and perch minnows are collected here for stocking other waters. There are bass in the dredged lakes along the Platte, in a number of cut off lakes along the Missouri and Republican, in artificial lakes of the Loup, Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys and in some of the reservoirs of the irrigation districts.

Bluegills, Sunfish and Crappie occur in most waters suitable for bass and perch. Some of the largest catches of crappie and sunfish are from dredged lakes near Fremont, Valley, Ashland, Meadow and Louisville.

Striped Perch are present in great numbers in Dewey, Red Deer, Hackberry and several other lakes of Cherry County. They occur also in many natural lakes, artificial lakes and reservoirs, and in some streams. This fish is well suited to Nebraska and is easily caught. Its firm meat makes good eating.

Pickereel and Wall-eyed Pike grow principally in the Niobrara and North Platte, but are found in the Loup, Elkhorn and Republican, and several lakes. Large numbers of pike are caught below the diversion dams in Scotts Bluff County. The catch each year is equal to many tons. The pike has been planted in several streams and lakes.

Bullheads are common in Nebraska, in the streams, ponds and lakes. The yellow cat is a desirable fish. It has been distributed quite generally for stocking purposes.

Channel Cats are in all rivers of the state. They afford good fishing in the Republican, Little Blue, Nemahas, Loup, Elkhorn and Niobrara, and at places in the Platte. They are also found in many lakes.

German Carp, American Carp and Buffalo are found in many streams and lakes. The carp are caught mainly in the southeastern part of the state. The buffalo is widely distributed, occurring in practically all streams of the western counties. Gar and sturgeon are large stream fish. They occur principally in the Missouri and Platte. The eel has been caught in the Elkhorn, Loup, and Platte.

Frogs have some importance as a source of food. The small leopard frog thrives in most marshes and fresh water lakes. Though edible, it is not much used for food. The greenish bullfrog is native to the southeastern counties. Many of the streams and lakes in the central and northwestern counties have been stocked with this frog. One of the best results obtained is in the boggy places of Long Pine Canyon. Frogs, now quite numerous in these places, are becoming of value for food.

Turtles occur in all parts of the state in both dry and wet places. The snapping turtle is widely represented by a number of varieties.

MODERN GAME RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

The state's game consists of birds and mammals. Among the birds are the quail, grouse, prairie chicken, ducks, geese, snipes, plovers, and the curlew. The wild turkey

was formerly found in the eastern and southwestern parts of the state. The mammals are the rabbits, raccoon, antelopes, and deer.

Bob White or Quail occur in parts of the state where there is brush and timber. They are quite numerous along the Niobrara and parts of the Republican, and are among the best game birds of the state, but have greater value in agriculture. There is no open season on quail at this time.

Prairie Chickens were formerly plentiful in the eastern and southern counties. There are few birds now except in the eastern part of the Sandhill Region. Grouse occur in the sandhills, mostly in the central and western parts. They are closely related to the prairie chicken, but the feet are feathered whereas the feet of the prairie chicken are bare. Grouse are much lighter below and this is particularly noticeable in flight. The prairie chicken flies less smoothly than the grouse. Both birds afford good shooting in the sandhills. Sage hens are not now found in Nebraska, but they do occur across the line in Wyoming.

Ducks are in Nebraska in large numbers during periods of migration and breeding. Some of them remain during the winter. Those breeding, principally in the lake districts of the sandhills are: Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Ruddy or Butterball, Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and Shoveller.

Hunting Ducks and Grouse. Duck and grouse shooting have considerable importance in parts of the sandhills. There are lodges or hunting camps at many lakes and marshes. The number of birds killed at these places during the open season is large. Hunters come from all parts of Nebraska and from other states. Duck shooting is very good in other parts of the state, and a number of geese are bagged each year.

The Upland Plover formerly was plentiful throughout the state. The numbers dwindled until a few birds were observed, since which time there has been a steady increase.

The Jack-snipe or Wilson's Snipe is found in small numbers about marsh land, but seems to be decreasing as these areas are drained.

The Long-billed Curlew has increased in numbers the past few years. It occurs throughout western Nebraska but principally in the wet valleys of the sandhills. There is no open season on this bird in the state.

Shore birds and the Mourning Dove are hunted some in Nebraska. The dove receives natural protection in that many people are opposed to killing it on account of sentiment. There is no open season on the dove.

The Chinese Pheasant has been introduced at places in the state. If the bird is as successful here as it is in Colorado, it should become a source of food within a few years.

Rabbits are common in all parts of Nebraska. There are four species—the prairie cottontail, common in the eastern counties; plains cottontail of the western part; the black-tailed jack rabbit, principally in the southern counties; and the white-tailed jack rabbit, mainly in the northern part of the state.

The rabbits are hunted universally. They afford sport and supply a considerable amount of meat. It would be possible to further develop them as a resource.

The Western Fox Squirrel occurs in native timber in eastern and southeastern counties. It is also found in planted groves in most parts of the state. The squirrel is hunted to some extent for meat.

The Raccoon occurs along practically all streams in the state, especially where there is brush, and about the marshes of the sandhills. It is hunted very generally in wooded areas and is trapped in the lake districts. The opossum occurs in the timber belts and is found occasionally a considerable distance from forests.

The Prong-horn Antelope, once plentiful in all parts of the state, remains in Kimball, Banner, Sioux, and Garden counties. The largest bands are in Sioux County, south of Agate, and in Garden County, near Crescent Lake. The antelope is protected throughout the year.

Deer of two species remain in northwestern Nebraska. The white-tailed deer occurs in the Dismal River country of the sandhills, where for several years it has been protected by ranchmen. The black-tailed deer is found at two places in the Pine Ridge country. There is no open season for deer hunting in the state.

Wapiti or Elk were very plentiful in what is now Nebraska. They are reported to have occurred in largest numbers along Dismal River. A few animals are now in parks and game preserves.

The Bison, now extinct except for a few animals in parks and on the federal game preserve located about four miles east of Valentine, was formerly the most important hunted animal in Nebraska.

FUR BEARING ANIMALS

By Frank H. Shoemaker, of the Conservation and Soil Survey

The largest fur-bearing animals found in Nebraska at the present time are the beaver, raccoon, badger, lynx, bobcat, and coyote. Smaller animals with furs of value are the muskrat and the various species of skunks, weasels, and minks. Formerly the black bear, the wolverine, the marten, and the otter occurred more or less commonly in Nebraska, but all are now extinct within our borders, excepting possibly the otter.

Musk rats, by reason of their numbers, are probably of the greatest economic importance in Nebraska as fur producers. They occur in all parts of the state along streams and lakes, ponds and marshes, sometimes in large colonies. Considerable trapping is done, chiefly in the western part of the state and about sandhill marshes, and with good returns. The raising of muskrats for furs might be greatly developed there, as it has been in some states farther east.

Minks, Weasels and Skunks are found chiefly in woodland along streams. Their furs are highly valued if taken at proper seasons. These animals are all destructive to poultry, and for protective if no other reason, should be trapped systematically where poultry is threatened.

CHAPTER II

THE NEBRASKA INDIANS

CHRONOLOGICALLY, 1673-1804—THE PAWNEES—PAWNEE WAR OF 1859—PAWNEE-SIOUX MASSACRE, 1873—MAJOR FRANK NORTH AND PAWNEE SCOUTS—THE SIOUX—DEPREDACTIONS, DAWSON COUNTY—BUFFALO AND HALL COUNTIES—HALL COUNTY MASSACRES—THAYER COUNTY—GENERAL CARR'S BATTLE WITH SIOUX—THE OMAHAS—THE OTOES—THE WINNEBAGOES—THE PONCAS—IOWAS, SACS AND FOX—ARAPAHOES AND CHEYENNES—BATTLE OF AUGUST, 1860—BATTLE OF ASH HOLLOW—WHITE MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE RED MAN.

"The land was ours — this glorious land —
With all its wealth of wood and streams,
Our warriors strong of heart and hand,
Our daughters beautiful as dreams.
When wearied at the thirsty noon,
We knelt where the spring gushed up,
To take our Father's blessed boon —
Unlike the white man's poison cup."

— Whittier, "*The Indian Tale*."

Except for the prehistoric races that have been heretofore spoken of, and concerning whom no facts can be recorded here, the Indians were the first settlers of Nebraska. While their coming may have only antedated that of the first explorers by a few hundred years, their claim to precedence of residence cannot be doubted.

Before undertaking a chronological survey of the part the Indians played in formation of early Nebraska annals, we may first make a brief survey of the history of the various tribes found to be flourishing to any very marked degree in Nebraska. This will be interwoven into the first portion of the chronology to follow here.

1673—June. Father Jacques Marquette, accompanied by that devout Christian worker and missionary, Louis Joliet, embarked upon his great exploring trip of the "Father of the Waters." While he made a trip as far south as the Red River, the interesting feature to our narrative is Marquette's description of the hitherto unknown Missouri country, and thereby giving forth a first report on Nebraska Indians. In a most interesting chart of that expedition, now in the archives at Montreal, Marquette locates, in what is now Kansas and Nebraska, the following Indian villages:

The Ouemessouriet (Missouri).
The Kenza (Kansas).
The Ouschage (Osage).
The Paneassa (Pawnee),
and the Maha (Omaha).

That his information was surprisingly correct is seen from the fact that the French explorers found these very tribes in relatively the same position as indicated in the chart nearly two hundred years later.

1701. Governor D'Iberville of Louisiana reported the location of the Maha and Otoe tribes.

1719. Dustine, French explorer, visited the Pawnee nation.

1720. Massacre of a Spanish expedition under Pedro Villazur by Nebraska Indians, purported to have been aided by hostile French.

1721. Charlevoix reports of the Missouri tribe, but not upon Nebraska soil. He reports concerning the extent of the tribes of Indians inhabiting the Missouri River above the Missouri nation, "Higher up we find the Cansez (Kansas); then the Octotatas (Otoes), which some call Mactotatas; then the Ajouez (Iowas) and Panis (Pawnees), a very populous nation, divided into several cantons, which have names very different from each other." This would lead to the conclusion that during the first half of the seventeenth century, the country now forming the State of Nebraska was inhabited along its southern border by the Kansas Indians: that the Platte River, then called the Rivere des Panis, was the home of the Pawnees, who had also villages to the northward—at a point a considerable distance up the Missouri River. And to the westward, lived the Padoucahs—a tribe long since extinct.

(While there is uncertainty as to whether some of these explorers just named above really visited Nebraska, it is known to a certainty that Dustine visited Kansas as early as 1719, and Bourgmont was there in 1724.)

1724. De Bourgmont, French commander, is reputed to have made a military expedition as far as the Nebraska region and counseled with at least the Otoes and Padoucahs.

1739. When Mallet brothers reach and name Platte River, they journey up river as far as its forks before striking south.

1743. La Verendrye brothers, on trip on which they discover the Rocky Mountains, describe the Pawnee Indians.

1770. Otoe Indians reputed to have established their chief village on the Platte, about three miles from the present village of Yutan.

1789. Jean Baptiste Monier, of St. Louis, reported to have found the Ponca Indians at the mouth of the Niobrara River.

1794. Jean Baptiste Truteau, under the Commercial Company, visited the Maha and Ponca tribes.

This brings the record of the principal intercourses between the white men and Indians of Nebraska down to 1804, the year in which, on August 3d, the first council held with Indians in Nebraska by representatives of the United States was held, at Council Bluff, now Fort Calhoun.

1804. Lewis and Clark, in the year of 1804, report finding Pawnees, Missouris, and Otoes in possession of the Platte, the Poncas near the mouth of the Niobrara and the Omahas in the northeastern part of the state, centering around what is now Sioux City.

This gives us a roster of the principal tribes in Nebraska and their respective locations, and is probably a proper point at which to divert and divide the record of Indian history of the state into tribal divisions.

THE PAWNEES

Origin. Some early writers have taken the position that the Pawnees were the descendants of the ancient Aztec nation, but the best authorities agree that the tribe belongs to the Caddoan family, and that the original habitat was probably on the Red River of Louisiana. In the Caddoan migration toward the northeast the Pawnee became separated from the main body and established themselves in the Valley of the Platte, where the Siouan tribes found them at an early date. Some of the tribes, though, moved on northward. Thus the Arikari moved by way of the Missouri, penetrating far into North Dakota. Sometime later the Skidi (Wolves) advanced northward and halted at the Platte, there to be overtaken by the Pawnees proper.

The Pawnees called themselves *Skihiksihiks*, or "men par excellence." The popular name, and the one most in vogue, is *Wolf People*. They were a warlike and powerful nation, claiming the whole region watered by the Platte from the Rocky Mountains to its mouth. They held in check the powerful Kiowas of the Black Hills and waged successful war against the Comanches of the Arkansas.

There were from an early day four grand divisions, or clans, of the Pawnees, having distinct government, though with language in common.

There were *Shanĭ* (or *Tswa*), the Grand Pawnees, with villages on the south bank of the Platte, opposite the present Grand Island; the *Kitkehaki* (*Tskithka* *Petower Kattabankies*), or Republican Pawnees, on the Republican River in northern Kansas; the *Pitahauerat* (*Tapage*), or Noisy Pawnees, also on the Platte; and the *Skidi* or *Loup* (Wolf), Pawnees, on the Loup fork of the Platte Valley.

Customs. Among many other customs that might be narrated:—They lived in well built log houses, covered with turf and earth, preferring these to the movable tepee, which was only used when the bands were on extended hunts. They depended very much on agriculture, the raising of corn and pumpkins—more so than upon the buffalo hunt. In this manner they probably never outgrew the sedentary and agricultural habits peculiar to all southern tribes.

It is narrated that from time to time they sacrificed prisoners to the sun to obtain good crops and success in warfare. "Anyone was at liberty to offer up a prisoner that they had captured in warfare. The victim was clothed in the gayest apparel and fed and feasted on the best that could be had, and when sufficiently fattened for their purpose, a suitable day was appointed for the sacrifice, so that the whole nation might attend. The unfortunate victim was then bound to a cross in the presence of the assembled multitude, after which a solemn dance and other ceremonies were performed, and at their conclusion the warrior whose prisoner he had been stepped forward and cleaved his head with a tomahawk, the other warriors filling his body with arrows. This barbarous custom, however, was finally stopped in 1820, through the influence of the missionaries."

1806. Lieutenant Zebulon Pike's exploring expedition, when on its way to the mountains in this year, encountered the Republican Pawnees in northern Kansas. This was a few years before they moved north to join their brothers already established on the Loup Forks. On September 29th, Lieutenant Pike and his aid Lieutenant Wilkinson held a grand council with the chiefs of that nation, a short account of which serves to give an idea of the northward limit of Spanish activity at that late time, and the degree of intercourse attainable with these Indians.

"The council was held at the Pawnee Republic Village (near the present site of Scandia, Kansas, in Republic County) and was attended by 400 warriors. When the parties assembled for their council, Lieutenant Pike found that the Pawnees had unfurled a Spanish flag at the door of the chief, one which had lately been presented by that government, through the hands of Lieutenant Malgoras. To the request of Lieutenant Pike that the flag should be delivered to him, and one of the United States hoisted in its place, they at first made no response; but, upon his repeating his demand, with the emphatic declaration that they must choose between Americans and Spaniards, and that it was impossible for the nation to have two fathers, they decided to put themselves, for the time at least, under American protection. An old man accordingly rose, went to the door, took down the Spanish flag, and laid it at the feet of Lieutenant Pike, and in its stead elevated the stars and stripes."

1812. Treaty of amity with Pawnees by the Government.

Major Long's Report. 1819. The expedition of Major Long sent out by the War Department. Leaving Engineer Cantonment "just below Council Bluffs, on June 10th, it struck out over Indian country."

Similar treaties of amity to the one just mentioned as having been ratified with the Pawnees on January 5, 1812, had been made with the Maha (Omahas) on December 26, 1815, and with the Otoes on December 26, 1817, and Major Long was instructed to make investigation and see that these treaties were lived up to by white man and red man alike. So he visited the Pawnee villages on his course westward. It would be impossible to take space to go into every detail of the life and customs of each of the tribes to be treated in this chapter, but an account of this visit will be worth our time and space. At sunset, June 10th, Major Long's expedition went into camp at a small creek about eleven miles distant from the village of the Grand Pawnees. His account reads:—

"On the following morning, having arranged the party according to rank, and given the necessary instructions for the preservation of order, we proceeded forward, and in a short time came in sight of the first of the Pawnee villages. The trail on which we had traveled since leaving the Missouri had the appearance of being more and more frequented as we approached the Pawnee towns; and here, instead of a single footway, it consisted of more than twenty parallel paths, of similar size and appearance; at a few miles distance from the village, we met a party of eight or ten squaws, with hoes and other implements of agriculture, on their way to the corn plantations. They were accompanied by one young Indian, but in what capacity—whether as assistant, protector or taskmaster, we were not informed. After a ride of about three hours we arrived before the village and dispatched a messenger to inform the chief of our approach.

"Answer was returned that he was engaged with his chiefs and warriors at a medicine feast, and could not, therefore, come out and meet us. We were soon surrounded by a crowd of women and children, who gazed at us with some expressions of astonishment; but as no one appeared to welcome us to the village, arrangements were made for sending on the horses and baggage to a suitable place for encampment while Major Long, with several gentlemen who wished to accompany him, entered the village. The party after groping about for some time and traversing a considerable part of the village, arrived at the lodge of the principal chief. Here we were again informed that Tarrerecawaho, with all the principal men of the village, was engaged in a medicine feast. Notwithstanding his absence,

some mats were spread for us upon the ground in the back part of the lodge. Upon them we sat down, and, after waiting some time, were presented with a large wooden dish of hominy or boiled corn. In this was a single spoon or the horn of a buffalo, large enough to hold a pint, which, being used alternately by each of the party, soon emptied the dish of its contents.

"After this strange reception and feast the expedition visited in turn the villages of the Republican and Loup (Wolf) Pawnees, lying a few miles apart, an hour's ride above the village of the Pawnee Grand."

Major Long, in his report, further commented on the thrift of these villages. For miles up and down the river large droves of horses were grazing; fields of maize and patches of tomatoes, pumpkins and squashes were seen in many places and added much to the apparent wealth of the community. That was before, and in sharp contrast to, the misfortunes that are soon to be chronicled as having overtaken this nation.

1831. It was about this time that calamities began to overtake the Pawnee nation, which had formerly numbered some 25,000 souls, and in its prime been the terror alike of trapper and trader and bands from other tribes who by chance ventured too far into the hunting grounds of these fierce fighting foes. In 1831, a terrible epidemic of smallpox carried off several thousand of their number, leaving the nation in a pitiable condition. Their agent, John Dougherty, in making his report to the Government, says:—

"Their misery defies all description. I am fully persuaded that one-half the whole number will be carried off by this frightful distemper. They told me that not one under thirty years of age escaped, it having been that length of time since it visited them before. They were dying so fast, and taken down at once in such large numbers that they had ceased to bury their dead, whose bodies were to be seen in every direction—lying in the river, lodged on the sand bars, in the weeds around the villages and in their corn caches."

1832. The removal of the Delawares to lands between the Platte and Kansas rivers led to a war with the Pawnees, and in this year the former tribe burned the great Pawnee village on the Republican River.

1834. Furthermore by treaty of October 9, 1834, the Pawnees sold their lands south and agreed to stay north of the Platte River and west of the Loup River, thereby considerably restricting their territory.

1834-1835. All of the Pawnee's plague-stricken southern villages were abandoned and the miserable remnant of this once proud tribe reassembled on the Loup and westward along the Platte.

1835-1849. In this period, first the Sioux, their old enemies swept down upon the Pawnees, and began a war of extermination along the Cedar and North Loup rivers. The Pawnees found every man's hand against them and even the Government remained indifferent to their fate at the hands of the Sioux. Then, to make matters worse, the Cheyennes and the Arapahoes infested their old Kansas hunting grounds, as if eager to strike the final blow.

1849. The gold seekers on the way to California brought the cholera to the Pawnee camps. Again several thousand died, and the handful of survivors, reduced to beggary, besought the Government for protection, which was granted.

1857. By the treaty of September 4, 1857, the Pawnees ceded all of their original territory except a strip 30 miles long by 15 wide upon the lower Loup River.

This was the old Nance County Reservation, whence they were finally removed to their final abode in Oklahoma.

1862-1865. During the Indian skirmishes that took place in those years, and during the Civil War period, the Pawnees furnished scouts to the Government and proved a valuable aid to the Government against the crafty Sioux, and reaped thereby a small measure of revenge for the time being, but the Sioux, after the war closed, reaped the final revenge upon the Pawnees.

1865-1872. In this period, the Pawnees were never safe if they ventured off their reservation. Red Cloud's crafty bands might sweep down upon them to kill and plunder.

1872. As if to cap the climax of their troubles, in this year they met the grasshopper invasion and their crops were destroyed. This meant starvation, but Congressional appropriation through land sales kept them alive until 1874.

1874. The Pawnees set their faces southward, forever to leave the Loup and the Platte.

The story of the rapid decay of this proud tribe is read in these figures of their numbers:—

1835, according to missionaries Dunbar and Allis, 10,000. In 1840, disease and war had reduced them to 7,500. In 1849, cholera had reduced them to 5,000. Later official reports gave 4,686 in 1856; 3,416 in 1861; 2,376 in 1874; 1,440 in 1879; 824 in 1889; and 629 in 1901.

PAWNEE WAR OF 1859

Before closing the narration of the experiences of the Pawnee tribes, there are two further incidents in their history which can be included in the Pawnee division of this Chapter, or elsewhere, but we will briefly treat them before passing on.

The "Pawnee War" occurred in the summer of 1859. At that time the Pawnees were occupying two villages on the south side of the Platte, about twelve miles south of Fontanelle, a village in the western edge of Washington County. This "war" was precipitated by the robbing of a settler, Uriah Thomas, of his pocket book containing \$136 and valuable land papers, drinking up his whiskey, and taking off his fine oxen, leaving him locked up in the cabin. A few days later people from West Point, about thirty miles northwest, and Dewitt, on further up, came in and reported the Pawnee bands to be marauding and committing various depredations upon the settlers, burning their dwellings, destroying their furniture, driving off their stock. After some scouting about the country, a small band of Indians was located about a mile from Fontanelle. In attempting to capture them, two or three Indians were killed as they fled from their intended place of ambush, and soon the whole country was ablaze with excitement. It was generally believed that a retaliating war of extermination would be inaugurated by the Pawnees, and the few militia companies then organized were ordered out by Governor Black to hold themselves ready at a moment's notice. While the settlers along the Elkhorn assembled at Fontanelle in readiness, the crops suffered seriously from neglect, and as the reported band of 10,000 ferociously arrayed savages failed to appear, a band of 200 men prepared to go out and find the savages and render them a lesson that would long live in their memories. Governor Black accompanied the expedition,

as nominal commander, though the real command fell upon Col. (later Governor) John M. Thayer. In a few days' march a band of some 5,000 Pawnees, Omaha and Poncas were overtaken. Instead of putting up stiff fight, when they discovered the paleface expedition in close proximity, the Indians attempted to escape. Later, some 2,000 were brought together for a parley. They were given a choice between surrendering the braves who had committed the depredations around West Point, pay the expenses of the expedition out of certain moneys due to them from the Government, or—fight. They chose the former, surrendered seven young braves, and signed the necessary agreement. In returning they passed the home of one of the imprisoned braves, whose squaw sprang out and handed him a knife with which he stabbed himself. While the whites were ministering to the supposed dying man, the squaw seized the knife, cut the cords binding the other prisoners and made possible their escape. Pursuing guards reported they had either killed or wounded all six of the escaped prisoners and the expedition resumed its return journey. Finally, the Government paid the Indians all that was due them and the expedition paid its own expenses, and thus ended the "Pawnee War."

PAWNEE-SIOUX MASSACRE, 1873

On the fifth day of August, 1873, occurred the battle between the Sioux and Pawnee Indians, in what has since come to be known as Massacre Canyon, a ravine about four miles north of the subsequent site of Trenton, Hitchcock County. This episode was about the finishing touch of the Pawnee's military career. About 250 Pawnee men, 100 women and 50 children were on a buffalo hunt, which had lasted since July 3d, and had been sufficiently successful that they were about to return to their reservation with the meat and skins of some 800 buffaloes.

The moment of the attack was early in the morning, when most of the men were hunting straggling buffaloes, and the women were making preparations for the day's journey. The Sioux, comprised of some 600 of the Ogallala and Brule bands, surprised the Pawnees, who briefly resisted but soon fled to avoid being surrounded and completely annihilated. They abandoned all of their possessions, including their winter's supply of meat and other provisions, robes and saddles. Some 69, 20 men, 39 women and 10 children were killed, and 11 women and children captured. The Government had some knowledge of the proximity of the Sioux, and Major Russell of the army, with 60 privates and 20 scouts, was camped within a few miles of the scene of the massacre and was then on his way to intercept the Sioux. When the Sioux discovered the soldiers, they fled to the northwest.

MAJOR FRANK NORTH AND THE PAWNEE SCOUTS

In general, the record of the Pawnees in their relations with the whites was much better than most of the other Nebraska tribes. While occasional depredations, and such incidents as precipitated the "Pawnee War" of 1859 stain this record, it cannot be questioned that the Pawnees rendered as valuable service to the whites and the Government as any Nebraska tribe ever did.

As brief a manner as any to explain this to the reader will be to give a short account of the work of Major Frank North and his Pawnee Scouts. In 1856 when Frank North was a young boy, he came to Nebraska and mingled with the

Indians along the Missouri in the region of Omaha, and learned their mode of warfare, their language, which he came to speak as fluently as his mother tongue, and thereby won their confidence. In 1861 he became a clerk and interpreter at the Pawnee reservation, and by 1863 had developed into a daring scout. During the work of building the Union Pacific the fierce Arapahoes, Cheyennes and Sioux persisted in attacking the laborers. A few excerpts from an account by his niece, Mrs. Sarah Clapp, in *Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences*, will serve not only to explain his work, but the attributes of the Pawnee scouts.

"It was useless to call on the regular troops for help as the Government needed their help to check the armies of Lee and Johnston. A clipping from the Washington Sunday Herald on this subject states that 'a happy thought occurred to Mr. Oakes Ames,' the main spirit of the work (of building the Union Pacific). He sent a trusty agent to hunt up Frank North, who was then twenty-four years old. 'What can be done to protect our working parties, Mr. North?' said Mr. Ames. 'I have an idea,' Mr. North answered. 'If the authorities at Washington will allow me to organize a battalion of Pawnees and mount and equip them, I will undertake to picket your entire line and keep off other Indians. The Pawnees are the natural enemies of all the tribes that are giving you so much trouble, and a little encouragement and drill will make them the best irregular horse you could desire.'

"The plan was new but looked feasible. Accordingly, Mr. Ames went to Washington, and, after some effort, succeeded in getting permission to organize a battalion of four hundred Pawnee warriors, who should be armed as were the U. S. Cavalry and drilled in such simple tactics as the service required, and my uncle was commissioned as a major of volunteers and ordered to command them. The newspaper clipping also says: 'It would be difficult to estimate the service of Major North in money value.' General Crook once said, in speaking of him, 'Millions of Government property and hundreds of lives were saved by him on the Union Pacific railroad, and on the Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana frontiers. . . .

"During the many skirmishes and battles fought by the Pawnees under Major North, he never lost a man; moreover, on several occasions he passed through such hair-breadth escapes that the Pawnees thought him invulnerable. In one instance, while pursuing the retreating enemy, he discovered that his command had fallen back and he was separated from them by over a mile. The enemy, discovering his plight, turned on him. He dismounted, being fully armed, and by using his horse as a breastwork, he managed to reach his troops again, though his faithful horse was killed. This and many like experiences caused the Pawnees to believe that their revered leader led a charmed life. He never deceived them, and they loved to call him 'Little Pawnee Le-Sharo' (Pawnee Chief), so he was known as the White Chief of the Pawnees."

So, just as the settler was compelled to use back-firing to fight prairie fires, the Government and settlers were enabled to "fight the fire of other tribes with the fire of the Pawnee's valor" in the eleventh hour of this tribe's Nebraska career.

THE SIOUX

The tribe that probably played the next greatest part in Nebraska Indian history, or at least in the last three decades of the Indians and white settlers' cohabitation in this territory, was the Sioux.

Prof. H. W. Fought, in his "Trail of the Loup" gives a short historical account of this tribe, which will serve to introduce them to the reader, before any chronological survey of their Nebraska career is undertaken.

"The Sioux belonged to one of the most widely extended and important Indian families of North America. In the very earliest days of the advent of the white men they appear to have held sway on the Atlantic seaboard, around the Virginias and Carolinas. They later abandoned their sedentary and agricultural tendencies and roamed to the banks of the Ohio. From their own traditions it is accounted that the Sioux parted company with the Winnebagoes at some point on the Ohio, probably near the mouth of the Wabash, and crossed northeasterly through Illinois, and took possession of the headwaters of the Mississippi. In the meantime other tribes of that great family reached the Mississippi until they came to the Missouri, there dividing, some of them going southward to Arkansas. The portion called the 'Omahas' ascended the Missouri and made their home in eastern Nebraska. The Poncas and Iowas are also usually classed as belonging to this Sioux family, as well as the Otoes, Peorias, and Missouris, first mentioned by Father Marquette in 1673. But the Sioux were the most important of the Siouan stock. The Sioux called themselves Dakotah, Nakotah, or Lakotah, according to their respective dialects, a name signifying 'allies.' But from the early French designation of 'Nadaousioux' a shortening brought it down to the modern 'Sioux.' This warlike nation early relinquished sedentary habits and became roaming buffalo hunters. For many years the Niobrara River in Nebraska formed the line of demarkation between the Sioux and Pawnees. In 1837 the Sioux sold to the Government all their claims to lands east of the Mississippi; in 1851, relinquished the greater part of Minnesota and Dakota. In 1857, they expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of their treaty relations by the Government by a massacre of white settlers at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and, in 1862, their chieftain, Little Crow, led a warfare upon the outlying settlements in Minnesota, and took advantage of the Government's embarrassments consequent upon the Civil war. This bitter war lasted until 1869, when they were driven out of Minnesota by General Sibley.

While Little Crow and his bands escaped to Canada, Red Cloud and his cohorts came to Nebraska, where they started a long struggle.

The valley of the Platte was then the thoroughfare to California. Plainsmen dared not cross in small companies and the pioneers were forced to arm to the teeth. The trail from the Missouri to the Rockies then became marked with bleaching bones, burnt wagons and rotting harness."

1832. The first great manifestation of the Sioux after white settlement was feebly attempted in Nebraska was in 1832 in what is now Jefferson County. Near the junction of the Big Sandy and the Little Blue rivers was fought one of the most desperate battles ever waged on the American continent. In this encounter the Sioux met defeat at the hands of the Pawnees, and it proved to be the Waterloo of the Plains for some three decades, and gave the Pawnees mastery of the Nebraska country at that time. According to best accounts, 16,000 savages participated in the conflict. The Pawnees were under the command of the chief Tac-po-ha-na, while the Sioux were led by Oco-no-me-woe, of whom it is claimed the celebrated Sioux chief, Sitting Bull, is a lineal descendant. The struggle for supremacy lasted three days and the Sioux were completely worsted, losing over 3,000 men. The Pawnees sustained a loss of 2,000 men. The story of this encounter was told to Mr.

D. C. Jenkins, who narrated it to the first chronicler who preserved it for Nebraska historical traditions by Monsieur Mont Crevie, an old French trader, who claimed to have spent forty years of his life among the Indians of the plains and mountains and had married a squaw in every tribe where he could find one who would have him. The facts are also further corroborated by an old blind Pawnee warrior who claimed to have been the only survivor of the terrible conflict. This last claim must have been incorrect for there were doubtless many other survivors among the Indians met by the first settlers of the various counties.

1832-1844. It will be noticed in the chapter hereafter following giving the order and chronology of the settlements of the various communities in Nebraska that between 1810, when the first post was established at Bellevue, and 1819, when Fort Atkinson was attempted sixteen miles north of present Omaha, and 1844, there were no really permanent white settlements made in Nebraska.

The early annals of the river counties in eastern Nebraska attribute many Indian residences to that territory in that period. Then for the next twenty-five years after 1844, when the early permanent settlements began along the Missouri River side of Nebraska, many encounters with Indians are recorded. Most of these are of too small a scope for us to take the space to chronicle them, so only the more important ones will be sketched here.

Probably Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Kearney, Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Keith, and old Cheyenne counties suffered from Indians during the early settlement periods more than any other counties, because largely through these counties the old "Oregon trails" and the western and more unprotected end of the other Overland trails, traversed.

DEPREDACTIONS

1864. The effect upon the settlements then already made in Nebraska of the outbreaks of the Sioux, especially in Dawson, Buffalo, Adams, Nuckolls and Thayer counties, can be well conveyed by an excerpt from the old Hebron Journal, by E. M. Correll.

"The attention of the whole nation was occupied by the great war of the Rebellion in 1864, so that the Indian raid of that year, the most carefully planned and skillfully executed known in the history of the western frontier, received but little attention and seemed in comparison of so little importance as scarcely to deserve a place in National history.

"Yet the military strategy and precision, and the secrecy and success and the cool butchery and cruelty of the attack, make it Napoleonic in its design and execution, and should place it on the pages of history alongside of the other great and bloody butchery by savages. At this time, many ranches dotted the great military road at intervals of a few miles. These ranches had become in many instances valuable farms, with substantial improvements, graced by woman's tasteful care. A number of such ranches were in Thayer County upon and contiguous to the Government road. The Indians had been peaceful and quiet for a long time, and the settlers along the road were prosperous and happy. Without a single note of warning the crisis came. From Denver City to Big Sandy, a distance of over six hundred miles, near the middle of the day, at precisely the same time, along the whole distance a simultaneous attack was made upon the ranches. No time was

given for couriers, no time for concentration, no time for the erection or strengthening of places of defense, but as the eagle swoops down upon his prey, the savage warriors attacked the defenseless white men. No principle of kingly courtesy actuated the breasts of the painted assailants. It mattered little to them that they were in vastly superior numbers, and the opponents in part women and children. All alike were made to feel their cruelty or their lust. No mercy was shown. No captives were taken but women, and death was preferred to the captivity that awaited them. Could the eastern philanthropists who speak so flatteringly of the 'noble red man of the West' have witnessed the cruel butchery of unoffending children, the disgrace of women, who were first horribly mutilated and then slain, the cowardly assassination of husbands and fathers, they might, perhaps (if fools can learn), be impressed with their true character. On the morning of the 7th of August, Indians must have been secreted in the ravines (of which there are many adjacent to the military road), and, at a given hour, rushed forth and commenced their work of destruction. At morn, the Government road was a traveled thoroughfare, dotted with prosperous and happy homes; at night, a wilderness, strewn with mangled bodies and wrecks, and illuminated with the glare of burning homes."

1862-1867. Since the depredations of the period of the Civil war, and especially the outbreak of 1864, was the most widespread and universal encounter between the settlers and the Indians, a short synopsis of the experiences of the various counties, then very well settled, will be given at this point.

DAWSON COUNTY

The most notable incident of this period was the massacre of a train, eleven in number, near Plum Creek on August 7th. This took place near the telegraph station, and the people there believing it was the outbreak of an extensive Indian war, immediately dispatched word to the settlers at Wood River Center, Grand Island and points farther east.

Lieutenant Governor Hopewell of Nebraska, as late as November, 1908, narrated to S. C. Bassett, compiler of a History of Buffalo County, that he was a "bull-whacker" on a Government freight train of twenty-five wagons, with six to eight yoke of oxen each. While the conditions along the trail in early July, 1864, were so peaceful that men even neglected sometimes to carry arms, and they received almost daily visits from scattered Indians, mostly Pawnees, friendly in nature and generally begging in purpose, they saw as early as July 6th, near Plum Creek, where the Indians had committed some depredations. Near O'Fallon's Bluff the train passed through a large camp of Cheyenne Indians (old men and women) and a day or two journey farther east saw a large body of Indian warriors. The train was not molested, but when it arrived at Plum Creek found where the train of eleven wagons had been destroyed and there were a large number of fresh graves along the trail.

BUFFALO AND HALL COUNTIES

The actual massacre incident to this raid, or series of raids, did not penetrate as far east as the scanty settlements of these counties. But on August 9th, James Oliver and Thomas Morgan, settlers on Wood River, at the eastern edge of Buffalo

County, had gone to Fort Kearney with a load of vegetables, and left their wives and children to keep company together. While there, the officers at the Fort received word of the massacre in Dawson County, and another settler named Cook who was also at the Fort was sent to warn the people around Wood River Center (now Shelton). The homes of the settlers then living in that vicinity were some built of logs and some of sod, and extended from the Boyd ranch (the home of J. E. Boyd, afterwards governor of the state) about one mile west of present town of Gibbon, on down the south side of the Platte to the present Grand Island. With very few exceptions all of the settlers from the Boyd ranch down to Grand Island immediately packed their belongings and fled eastward, most of them never stopping until they reached the colony at Columbus, and many passing on east and not returning. There were about eighteen families in the community near the present town of Wood River, in western Hall County, and Wood River Center, now Shelton, in eastern Buffalo County. In addition to those named, Boyd, Morgan and Oliver, there were Sol Reese, Storey, Nutter, Sol Richmond, Highler, Richard, Anthony and Patrick Moore, Edmund O'Brien, Dugdale, Ted, Jack and Bob Oliver, Bill Eldridge, Squire Lamb and Fred Adams. Most of this colony returned after the scare.

HALL COUNTY MASSACRES

Prior to this, on February 5, 1862, Hall County had experienced one incident that was sufficient to place the fear of the Indians pretty strongly in the hearts of the settlers of that vicinity. Joseph P. Smith and Andreson, his son-in-law, farmers on Wood River about twelve miles west of Grand Island, were out after some logs on the north channel of the Platte River on that date, accompanied by the two sons, William eleven years and Charles nine years of age. Andreson took home a load of logs and on his return found Mr. Smith and the two boys brutally massacred by the Sioux Indians. The old man Smith had several arrows in his body and was lying on the ice with his face down, holding each of the boys by one hand.

In August, 1864, two boys, Nathaniel and Robert Martin, were helping their father in the hayfield. The two boys were mounted on a fleet pony and when some Sioux Indians showed up, were making good their escape toward the shelter of the log house and barns at the ranch when an arrow pinned them together.

Passing on to 1867, Hall County experienced two more sad losses at the hands of these Indians. One was the attack on the Campbell ranch on July 24, 1867. No men being at home, the house was captured, a woman, Mrs. Thurston Warren, killed by a gunshot, and her son by an arrow. The two nieces of Mr. Campbell, aged nineteen and seventeen, were carried away with twin boys four years old, and a German, named Henry Dose, was killed close by. The Indians robbed the house, killed some stock, and escaped unmolested. Months later the Government bought the two girls from the Indians for \$4,000, and as extra compensation released an Indian squaw who had been captured by Ed. Arnold's Pawnee scouts, at Elm Creek, that season. Of the children captured, three were living, at least recently. They are Mrs. J. P. Dunlap of Dwight, Nebraska, Peter Campbell, of Wahoo, Nebraska (in Lincoln, in 1919), and Daniel, who in 1919 was living in Ohio.

A few months later two boys, Chris Geottsch and Henry Frauen, were killed in a raid some thirty miles from Grand Island, on the Loup River, near the present site of Dannebrog.

That there were not more casualties in Hall County during the raid of 1864 was probably due to the fact that the German settlement, of some thirty or forty families living south of the present city of Grand Island, had built a fort in 1862. This was a fortified log house, 24x24 in size and with 25 port holes, had a well inside. This "Fort Independence" and the further fortified O. K. store, so protected this colony that they did not join in the exodus that was taking place up and down the valley, and escaped the troublesome period without loss of life.

THAYER COUNTY AT HANDS OF RAIDS

Capt. H. E. Palmer, in his "History of the Powder River Expedition of 1865" (Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. II), described the carnage in Thayer County resulting from the raids of the Sioux in 1864, as follows:—

"On my way out, near Big Sandy, now Alexandria, I met a party of freighters and stage coach passengers on horseback, and some few ranchmen, fleeing from the Little Blue Valley. They told me a terrible story, that the Indians were just in their rear and how they had massacred the people just west of them, none knew how many. After camping for dinner at this place, and seeing the last citizen disappear toward the States, I pushed on toward the Little Blue, camping in the valley, and saw two Indians about five miles away on a hill as I went into camp. The next day passed Ewbanks (Ubanks) ranch, and found there little children from three to seven years old, who had been taken by the heels and swung around against the cabin beating their heads into a jelly. The hired girl was found some fifteen rods from the ranch, staked out on the prairie, tied by her hands and feet, naked, and her body full of arrows and horribly mangled. Not far from this was the body of Ewbanks, whiskers cut off, body most fearfully mutilated. The buildings had been burned and the ruins still smoking. Nearly the same scene of desolation and murder was witnessed at Spring ranch."

He narrates further that this raid on the Little Blue was made by the Cheyenne Sioux under the command of Black Kettle, One-Eyed George Bent, Two Faces and others. Mrs. Ewbanks and Miss Laura Boyer were carried away captives, and were ransomed from the Indians, who brought them to Fort Laramie in January, 1865. This band of Indians, Captain Palmer says, was attacked by Colorado troops under the command of Col. J. M. Chivington, on November 29, 1864, in their camp on Sand Creek, about one hundred and ten miles southeast of Denver, and some six hundred men, women and children killed. It was supposed this Chivington victory would stop this tribe from its course, but the Cheyenne and Arapahoes seemed determined to go ahead. On the 7th of January, 1865, more than one thousand Indians appeared suddenly before Fort Julesburg, and in a battle that ensued for several hours, fourteen soldiers and fifty-six Indians were killed. An expedition under command of General Mitchell started from Fort Cottonwood down the Republican Valley on January 16, 1865, and went through twelve days of terrible suffering in below zero weather in this pursuit.

GENERAL CARR'S BATTLE WITH THE SIOUX

1869. In June, 1869, an expedition commanded by Gen. E. A. Carr, of the Fifth Cavalry, with eight companies of regular troops and three companies of

Pawnee scouts under command of Major Frank North, started down the Republican Valley to clear it of these marauders. At a point which was called Summit Springs, in the corner of Colorado, the Indians, comprising Sioux and "Dogsoldiers," renegades from various tribes, were completely routed. Fifty-two of them, including Tall Bull, were killed. Two women, Mrs. Susannah Alderdice and Mrs. Weichel, were in camp, where Tall Bull had kept them as wives since their capture on the Saline River in Kansas. These he shot rather than risk their capture, but Mrs. Weichel was saved and a large purse raised in camp for her benefit. Even after this episode the Buck surveying party was massacred, captured or otherwise disappeared, and a Daugherty party narrowly escaped such a fate.

However, this appears to have been the last time the Indians resisted the military in this part of Nebraska, and no serious losses were suffered after that, except the famous Cheyenne raid of 1878.

1878. Without going into the dramatic story of the flight of the Cheyenne from their reservation in Indian Territory, where they had been placed two years before, to their old haunts in the Black Hills, suffice it to say that three hundred of that tribe, under the leadership of Dull Knife, Little Wolf, Wild Hog and Old Crow, comprising but eighty-nine warriors, the remainder being women and children, crossed the Nebraska-Kansas boundary line on October 1, 1878. They eluded the detachments of soldiers and posses of civilians for some weeks, and were not brought to bay until they reached the northwestern corner of the state. There, in a winter campaign, they were practically exterminated. They had killed thirty-two people in Rawlins and Decatur counties, Kansas, but so far as known only one man lost his life in Nebraska, George Rowley, who kept a "cowcamp" at Wauneta Falls.

1876. The next determined stand of the Sioux in a military way does not belong to Nebraska history. That was the campaign of 1876-77, which came upon the heels of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the white man's exodus into that region. The main event of that campaign was the surprise and massacre of the intrepid Gen. George A. Custer and his entire command of nearly three hundred regular troops in the bluffs of the Little Big Horn country under the leadership of Sitting Bull. Four days later General Crook arrived upon the battlefield, and in a series of fights took summary revenge upon the Indians. Of these Sitting Bull with several thousand followers escaped to Canada where he remained till 1881, when he returned on promise of amnesty.

1890. Another treaty had been made in 1889, by which the Sioux surrendered the richest lands of the "Great Sioux reservation" embracing all of South Dakota west of the Missouri, for five small distinct reservations and certain annuities. In 1890 another small outbreak of treachery was attempted at Wounded Knee, on the White River, by a band which had voluntarily surrendered. When this affray, which had threatened the extermination of the unsuspecting regulars was over, some three hundred reds were dead. In this war, old Sitting Bull and members of his family were killed, December 15, 1890, by soldiers sent to arrest him.

The Sioux were typical nomad hunters and warriors. Numerically and physically strong, they made themselves masters of the buffalo plains, no other tribes being able to make a successful stand against them. The census of 1900 placed the nation at 24,000, distributed as follows:—Canada (refugees from U. S.) 600; Minnesota, 930; Montana, 1,180; Nebraska (Santee Agency) 1,310; North Dakota,

4,630; South Dakota (Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge and Rosebud Agencies) 15,480.

OTHER TRIBES OF INDIANS

THE OMAHAS

This tribe, a part of the Dakotas, or Dakotah Sioux, formerly resided north of the Missouri River, in Dakota. But being harassed by other tribes of the Sioux family, it is supposed they moved into Nebraska early in the eighteenth century. Marquette represents them on his map in 1673.

1766. Cover found them on the St. Peter's, where they formed two tribes—the Hongashonos, and the Ishbanondas, or Grey Eyes—divided into fourteen clans, one of which preserved a sacred shell in a rude temple.

1780. By this time they were traced to a point on the Missouri, at or near the mouth of the Big Sioux River, and soon afterwards crossed to the west side of the Missouri and settled on the Niobrara.

1804. Lewis and Clark found them, numbering about six hundred. Being pursued relentlessly by the Sioux and greatly reduced in numbers by smallpox, they burned their village on the Niobrara and removed to the Blackbird Hills. Blackbird is the name that was first given to present Thurston County.

1815-1830. Treaties were made with them on July 20, 1815, September 20, 1825, and July 15, 1830, ceding lands at Council Bluffs (Fort Calhoun as now known) for an annuity, blacksmith shop and agricultural implements.

1830. After the treaty of 1830, they formed their villages at Bellevue, south of present city of Omaha, and near the trading post of Col. Peter A. Sarpy, and at Saling's Grove, where they remained until June, 1855.

1839. Overtures of peace between the Omaha and their relentless enemies the Sioux failed of accomplishment. A mission established with them by Presbyterian authorities failed of much success.

1843. The Omahas returned to their villages and made peace with certain bands of the Sioux.

1846. Another mission established with them had but little more success than that of 1839.

1854. March 16th. A treaty was made by which the Omahas ceded their lands adjoining the Missouri, and north of the Platte and towards the Elkhorn.

1855. In July of this year, their great chief Logan Fontanelle was killed by the Sioux while on a hunting expedition. In this year, this tribe removed to their reservation of 345,000 acres set forth for them by the Government, in Blackbird, now Thurston County.

1879. Their number had dwindled to a population of 1,050.

THE OTOES

The Otoes belonged to the Dakota family and were originally a part of the Missouris. Their home in Nebraska was originally on the west bank of the Missouri River about thirty miles north of the mouth of the Platte River. They were of a wandering disposition, frequently moving about from point to point.

1673. The French reported on them under name of Attanka, but they called themselves Wahoohtahta.

1819-20. Major Long in his reports upon them asserted that the Otoes were a band from a great nation living at the head of the Mississippi River, from whom they separated in about 1724, coming west to the Missouri River, their first settlement in Nebraska being near the mouth of the Great Nemaha River. Their next camping ground was on the Platte, fifteen or twenty miles from the mouth, from which camp some of their chiefs probably visited the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804, at the latter's camp on the bluffs of the Missouri, sixteen miles above Omaha, from which incident the place derived its name of Council Bluff.

1817-1854. Treaties were made with them on June 24, 1817, and September 26, 1825, and by the treaty of March 25, 1854, the confederated tribes of Otoes and Missouris ceded their rights to the lands lying along the Missouri, and were removed to a reservation of 16,000 acres on the southeastern border of the state. This site was largely in what is now the south part of Gage County, and lapped over into the southeast corner of Jones County—now Jefferson—and took in some land in Marshall and Washington counties, Kansas.

1879. A new treaty was made whereby these Indians were to sell their lands and remove to Indian Territory.

1881. After the foregoing mentioned sale, the Otoes and Missouris moved to Indian Territory.

WINNEBAGOES

This tribe is a part of the Dakota family.

1793. Lived then in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

1863. After several treaties had been made with them, they moved to Crow Creek, in Dakota, above Fort Randall. That place was unsuited to them, and afforded no means of livelihood. Deaths were so numerous from disease, war and famine, that but 1,222 were left out of 1,985. They left there and came to the Omaha reservation and applied for shelter.

1866. May. Removed to Winnebago, to commence anew. They are a quiet, peaceable people, generally wearing citizens' clothing. They lived during the '80s in houses, built for them, and did not maintain a regular village. They played no active part in Indian annals of Nebraska.

PONCAS

This tribe resided for many years on a reservation near the mouth of the Niobrara River, in Dakota Territory. They were originally a branch of the Mahas or Omahas, and resided on the Red River of the North. Losing so greatly from repeated attacks by the Sioux, they removed to the opposite side of the Missouri River and built a fortified village on the Ponca River. While they united with the Omaha, they generally kept apart.

1804-1832. They were small in number when the visit of Lewis and Clark was made. By treaties of June 28, 1817, and June 9, 1825, they improved somewhat, and in 1832 numbered 750.

1858. March 12th. They sold their lands to the Government and went on a

reservation near the Yanktons, the compensation to be in installments of \$185,000 with the support of their schools and agricultural aid. Prior to this treaty, the Poncas had not received very good protection under their treaty relations and their lands had been considerably invaded and seized by squatter settlers. But from the day they signed away what land rights they had left, in 1858, their real sufferings began. The Government failed to keep full faith with them much of the money appropriated was stolen by dishonest agents and contractors, and their old enemy, the Sioux, robbed them of whatever the white man overlooked.

1874. The Poncas now numbered 730 and 132 half-breeds. They were then assigned to the care of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

1876. It was decided to remove them to a reservation in Indian Territory. By this time, the Poncas had acquired many of the arts of civilization, and it was hard for them to leave the home they had lived in for so many years. Forcibly removed from their homes, they were compelled to march on a long weary journey of three months to their new homes.

1879. Thirty of this tribe, with Standing Bear as their chief, left their southern reservation and returned to the Omaha reserve. A detachment of soldiers was ordered to take them back. But this proceeding resulted in some interesting litigation. Upon their arrival at Omaha, a writ of habeas corpus was sued out, and heard before Judge Dundy, of the United States Court, wherein Hon. A. J. Poppleton and J. L. Webster volunteered their services. This came up on May 2d, and after a careful hearing they were released from custody. Judge Dundy decided that an Indian is a "person" within the intent and purpose of the constitution and released the prisoners. They were finally restored to the old Omaha reserve home and allowed to remain there in contentment.

IOWAS, SACS AND FOX

These three tribes, about 1880, occupied a reservation in the southeastern corner of the state, extending over into Kansas. These tribes never played a very great part in Nebraska Indian annals.

WESTERN NEBRASKA TRIBES

Considerable mention has been made in the foregoing account of the Sioux in Nebraska of the tribes that dwelt mainly in western and southwestern Nebraska.

The Arapahoes and Cheyennes occupied Nebraska as roaming tribes. They were pressed by the Sioux from the east and the Shoshones from the west. The southwestern section of the state, including Dundy and Chase counties, together with the high plains of eastern Colorado, were occupied by the Arapahoe and Cheyennes, who, from a time antedating the coming of the white men had held the headwaters of the Republican and its largest western tributary, the Frenchman, against the aggressions of all other tribes.

Before the advent of railroads, settlements were slow in southwestern Nebraska, and that territory was off the regular trails. The Oregon and California trails to the north and Smoky Hill route to south, kept operations away from this part of the country until the late '60s.

BATTLE OF AUGUST 6, 1860

For several years, before the beginning of the Civil war, bands of Kiowas and Comanches had been ranging up in this vicinity, and in rounding them up on the pursuit northward, a detachment of troops, under command of Captain Sturgis, located them near the Republican fork, north of Beaver Creek. Twenty-nine were killed in the long, hard skirmishes that resulted.

BATTLE OF ASH HALLOW

Several battles had been fought along the North Platte, between 1850 and 1860, in keeping these western Nebraska Indians rounded up. The most notable in Nebraska annals of these skirmishes was that at Ash Hallow, where General Harney defeated a large body of Indians, in 1855. It was at this battle that General Harney received the title of "The Hornet" from the Indians. Little Thunder, afterward a Brule chief, in describing this fight to W. M. Hinman, then interpreter at Fort McPherson (in Lincoln County) says the Indians called General Harney "The Hornet" because in this encounter they considered themselves badly stung.

WHITE MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE RED MAN

There are two sides to every question, and while many are the terrible depredations and heartless, relentless cruelties detailed in the foregoing pages, as suffered by the hardy white pioneers at the hands of the redskins, there are those among the pioneers, who relate the other side of this question. When the white man came he found the original American, the Indian, in possession of all the vast acres of fair Nebraska. For centuries this had been his hunting-ground and home, undisturbed.

Then comes in the paleface, who not only takes the acres to live upon, cuts down such timbers as he needs, or clears such land as he wishes to cultivate, but the whites wasted timber by the thousands of acres in those early decades, just as they wasted the precious meat of the waning, disappearing bison and buffalo. No less an authority than Buffalo Bill narrated that he alone had killed over 2,000 buffaloes for a railroad camp in Kansas. As one settler of Hall County has expressed it for the compiler of these pages:

"Everybody was shooting the Indians' meat supply, and most of it rotted away on the prairie for nothing. This grieved the Indians' heart beyond expression, and it created a hatred or revenge against the 'palefaces' or 'Chickestalkers.' What more did the white man do? He swindled, lied, corrupted, where he had a chance toward the Indian, and some more villainous of our race even sold the redmen smallpox infected blankets, causing their death in great numbers."

Many pioneers have expressed the wonder that the Indians got mad at last and turned out to be most unmerciful brutes to the white man. Other students of the time have attributed, in part, the raids of 1864, to the assurances of the Mormons that retaliation could be taken upon the Government while it was busy with the southern secessionists. Some settlers, in reflecting upon these things have even wondered that the redskin allowed the paleface to stay at all. The white man writes the history, and whatever the redskin would say, could he record these pages, his age in Nebraska is mostly past. Except for the few now living on reservations in the corners of the state, the present generation of Nebraskans cannot come in touch first-hand to form their judgment.

CHAPTER III

"THE BIRTH OF A STATE"

Before Territorial Days

DISCOVERERS—THE QUEST OF QUIVERA—FRENCH EXPLORATIONS—NEBRASKA UNDER FRENCH AND SPANISH RULES—AMERICAN EXPLORATIONS—LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION—THE ASTORIAN EXPEDITION—LONG'S EXPEDITION—TRAIL BLAZERS—GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN NEBRASKA TERRITORY—THE MORMONS—THE GOLD HUNTERS—"LIFE ON THE PLAINS"—OVERLAND TRAILS—"HAVE YOU AN EYE?"—OREGON TRAIL—OTHER TRAILS—DECLINE OF THESE TRAILS—STAGE COACHES—PONY EXPRESS SYSTEM—THEN AND NOW.

BEFORE THE TERRITORIAL DAYS

The history of Nebraska naturally begins with the history of the United States, or even to take the point still finer, with the history of the Continent. Wherever each individual student of history will agree that the history of the United States begins, there might we begin the history of Nebraska. But it is unnecessary to consume pages of the earlier history of our Nation. But there are a few events preceding the actual formation of Nebraska into a territory, or even preceding the first encroachment of the white man upon the native possessor of this vast, fertile empire, The American Indian.

DISCOVERERS

When Christopher Columbus dared to adventure where others feared to go, and by his single voyage revealed to the astonished gaze of Europe the existence of undreamed lands of wonder and beauty, he welded the first link in a chain of explorations and discoveries that paved the way for the great Middle West of America, and the garden-spot we love to call Nebraska. So to trace the evolution of Nebraska, we will briefly dwell upon the more important of these events.

By striking from the enslaved and paralyzed mind of the Eastern Hemisphere, and banishing the chains of fear and ignorance, Columbus opened up to the descendants of European peoples the fertile plains of Nebraska just as much as any other part of the United States.

In 1493, the year following, the pope granted to the King and Queen of Spain "all countries inhabited by infidels." Of course, at that time the extent of the great continent discovered by Columbus was not known, but, in a vague way, the papal grant included Nebraska.

Of course, other voyagers had traversed the Atlantic and in recent years, conflicting claims have been made, tending to bestow the honor of discovering this hemisphere upon other explorers than Columbus, but to all of these hardy, daring pioneers belong the honor of opening to the world the great country.

1493-1500. About 1496, Henry VII of England, granted to John Cabot and his sons a patent of possession and trade to "all lands they may discover and claim in the name of the English crown." Between then and the end of that century, the Cabots explored the Atlantic Coast and made discoveries upon which England claimed practically all of the central part of North America.

1500-1539. Further northward, the French, through the discoveries of Jacques Cartier, laid claim to the valley of the St. Lawrence River and the region about the Great Lakes, from which they pushed their explorations westward toward the headwaters of the Mississippi River, and southward into the valley of the Ohio.

None of these expeditions yet affected the Missouri River region, but they laid the foundations for the struggle that opens American history, wherein three great nations—England, France and Spain—were contesting for this new "garden plot of the world." The people of all western Europe had been enmeshed throughout the fifteenth century in the feudal ideas handed down to them from centuries preceding. During the early sixteenth century, they began to emerge from this enveloping worship of the few, and for the first time since the modern Europe had arisen from the fragments of the Roman Empire were its governments coming into the hands of able rulers. The common people of each country were beginning to think for themselves along the currents that evolved the influences and motives that from one to three hundred years later drove their descendants across the broad Atlantic and impelled them half-way across the undeveloped Western Continent to the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri valleys.

In November, 1519, Hernando Cortez, with a strong force of Spanish soldiery, entered Mexico, captured Montezuma, the "Mexican Emperor," and after a two years' war succeeded in establishing Spanish supremacy. Cortez soon afterwards fell into disfavor with Spanish authorities, but he had planted the seeds of Spanish supremacy. This event is in a way far removed from Nebraska's direct history, but the stamp of Spain which he and his companions placed upon the western hemisphere made itself felt in the earlier history of Nebraska and her neighbor states.

The Spaniards maintained their government over the Mexican region by military governors until in 1580, when Antonio de Mendoza was appointed viceroy, with almost unlimited powers. He was known as the "good viceroy." Under Mendoza and his successors, many Indians were converted to the Catholic faith and exploration and settlement were pushed northward into Texas, New Mexico and California.

1541-2. Hernando De Soto and his expedition came into the interior of the United States. He had left Cuba, of which he was governor, on May 12, 1539, with about one thousand men, for the purpose of exploring the interior of Florida. Like all Spanish explorers, his chief object was to find rich mines of precious metals. He wandered on until he came to the Mississippi River in the spring of 1541. He died on his way to the Spanish settlements in Mexico, but his name has lived as the discoverer of the lower Mississippi, and upon the report made by those of his expedition who returned to Florida, Spain claimed "all the land bordering on the Grande River and the Gulf of Mexico."

THE QUEST OF QUIVERA

1541. But it was from the far southland came the first adventurers who came near enough, if not actually upon Nebraskan soil, to bring the white man's story up to this vicinity. It fell to the lot of the romantic Spaniard to shed poetic glamour over the first pages of Nebraska history. It was the far-famed expedition of Cavalier Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, which left Compostela, Mexico, on February 23, 1540, and reached "the 40th degree of latitude" according to tradition, in 1541. A wanderer, called "Stephen the Moor" who returned from a search in the Sierra Mountains and the plains of what is now western United States, with stories of the "seven cities of Cibola" started the quest in Coronado's heart. Coronado left with 300 Spanish soldiers and 800 natives. Three accounts of his famed expedition, one by himself, one by his lieutenant, Jaramillo, and the third by a private soldier named Castaneda, all agree that they reached the seven cities of the fables, but found only seven insignificant villages. Chagrined by the failure of his prospects, Coronado, instead of returning, pushed forward. The winter of 1540-1 was spent in fierce warfare with Indian tribes, and upon those vanquished, the story of Spanish cruelty burns into American Indian history, a sad chapter against the Christian conquerors. At this juncture an Indian warrior appeared before Coronado with a strange story about "the great kingdom of Quivera" many leagues to the northeast. It was pictured as a wonderful land, "with its river seven miles wide, in which fishes large as horses were found; its immense canoes; its trees hung with golden bells, and dishes of solid gold." This remarkable tale had its effect on the Spaniards, who took the bait, and were led some 700 miles away into the wild interior. In July the expedition, which had been simmered down to thirty picked men before it left the Texan country, reached a group of tepee villages near the border line between Kansas and Nebraska. Coronado, satisfied at last that he had been duped by his guide, hanged that unfortunate to a tree on the banks of a stream which may have been the Republican or the Blue, in Nebraska. Farther to the north, he was told, was another large stream, presumably the Platte. But no records are left to show that he approached this river any nearer. But thus far, it is known, that he turned eastward, marching until he reached the banks of a "large tributary of the Mississippi," no doubt the Missouri. And there he set up a cross with the inscription: "Thus far came Francisco de Coronado, General of an Expedition."

Much discussion has ensued as to whether Coronado ever really set foot upon Nebraska soil. Judge James W. Savage, whose interesting paper upon this subject is published in the Nebraska State Historical Society Report, of 1880, argues that Coronado could not have failed to reach the Platte or at least the Republican in Nebraska. Coronado's own record that he reached the 40th latitude may have placed him north of the Kansas line or may not have. It is the consensus of opinion among students of this question that the Quivera Indians were probably the Wichitas—that the true site of "Quivera" is probably in the valley of the Kansas River in the vicinity of Fort Riley.

In any event, when Coronado turned his back to this portion of the United States, the darkness of barbarism settled down for more than another century.

1599. Don Juan de Onate led an expedition from New Mexico, which is reputed to have reached Quivera, in 1599. He described his arrival at the City of Quivera, "which is on the north bank of a wide and shallow river." If the conjecture that

this is the Platte River is correct, a battle he described with the Escanzaques would have been upon Nebraska soil. But not much credence is placed in this romantic story, and no permanent effect was left upon Nebraska history, to say the least.

1662. This was the year of the mythical expedition of Don de Penalosa, called the "Duke of Penelosa." He is reputed to have come upon a war party of the Escanzaques, in that summer, "near a wide and rapid river." These Indians were reputed to live near the 40th latitude, and his story of a village, situated in the vicinity of the Platte River, with thousands of houses, circular in shape, some two to even four stories in height, is not credited seriously in Nebraska history.

FRENCH EXPLORATIONS

Spain had made no direct effort to civilize the vast region she already laid claim to by right of discovery. But France and England, in the meantime, were becoming rivals for the affections and possession of these new fields of conquest. England was establishing herself along the Atlantic Coast and her adventurous progress did not touch this central western region yet. But France was gaining a foothold on Quebec and pushing her hold up the St. Lawrence River.

The first men to enter upon a systematic exploration of the vast region of which Nebraska is a part were the Jesuits, or members of the Society of Jesus, a famous religious society founded by Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish knight of the sixteenth century.

1611. As early as 1611, the Jesuit missionaries from the French settlement in Canada were among the Indians who inhabited the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Like the Cortez Spanish explorations, this was too far away to affect Nebraska directly, but was paving the way for the oncoming attention.

1665. Claude Allouez, one of the most zealous of these Jesuit fathers, visited the Indians in the vicinity of Ashland Bay, on Lake Superior, and held a conference with a number of tribes. In 1668, Allouez and another missionary, Father Claude Dablon, founded the mission of St. Mary's, the oldest white settlement within the present state of Michigan. The next step forward was a council at St. Mary's in 1671, led by Nicholas Perrot. In that same year, Father Jacques Marquette, another Jesuit missionary, founded the mission at Point St. Ignace, for the benefit of the Huron Indians, a point regarded for years as the key to the then unexplored West.

On May 17, 1673, Marquette, with Louis Joliet, a young fur trader, set out on a perilous undertaking. After a month of steady pushing forward, paddling in canoes along the swift currents of unknown streams, and threading their way through dense forests, on June 17th they reached the mouth of the Wisconsin, near the present site of Dubuque, Iowa. They drifted on down the Mississippi, past the mouth of the Missouri, and on down to the mouth of the Ohio. They brought the emblazoned trail of travel a little closer to the unlocked bosoms of the Nebraska prairies.

1682. But it remained for another intrepid Frenchman to complete the work left unfinished by Marquette and Joliet, and take formal possession of Louisiana in the name of the King of France.

The history of Nebraska is most generally and properly reputed to really begin with the voyage of this heroic La Salle in 1682. Before that, this sequence of events has read more like a romance; from then on, it begins to clothe itself in the practical garments of reality and avowed purposes. Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La

Salle, commissioned to continue the explorations of Marquette and Joliet, "find a port for the King's ships in the Gulf of Mexico, discover the western parts of New France, and find a way to penetrate Mexico," discharged at least a major portion of his assignment. Suffice it to say that on April 8, 1682, La Salle and his lieutenant, Henri Tonti, passed through two of the channels at the mouth of the Mississippi, leading to the Gulf of Mexico, and set up his wooden column, on which had been inscribed the following: "Louis the Great, King of France and of Navarre, King, April 9, 1682." Thus the great basin of the Mississippi came under the scepter of Louis XIV, and standing on that delta of the river, La Salle called into existence the great territory of Louisiana, and Nebraska became a dependency of France. The vast territory of the northwest plains, peopled then only by savage Indian tribes, the abode of buffalo and other wild animals, received its first semblance of organized, political government.

French explorations and expansion continued for almost a century following. In April, 1689, Nicholas Perrot took formal possession of the upper Mississippi Valley, and built a fort and trading post. Antoine Crozat, under a charter given in 1712, combatted for five years with Spanish authorities to make good France's claim to lower Louisiana. He was succeeded by the Mississippi Company, which was organized by John Law as a branch of the Bank of France. In 1720, Law's schemes of colonization failed, and are known to history as the "Mississippi Bubble." Pierre and Paul Mallet, of New Orleans, in 1738, with other Frenchmen, ascended the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and spent the winter near the mouth of the Niobrara.

The English in the meantime had not been idle. In 1620 the British Crown had ignored the Spanish papal grant and the explorations of De Soto, and issued to the Plymouth Company a charter including "all the lands between the fortieth and forty-eighth parallels of north latitude from sea to sea." As the fortieth latitude is the southern boundary of Nebraska, this grant, by implication at least, included the present state of Nebraska. In 1668, the Massachusetts Bay Company received a charter to a strip about one hundred miles wide from "sea to sea," which if it could have been surveyed would have found the northern boundary almost coincident with Nebraska's northern boundary, and its southern boundary would have crossed the Missouri River about twenty miles above the present city of Omaha. Conflicting claims continued, until the French and Indian war materially changed the map of North America. But even after that, many people refused to submit to England's claim to territory lying outside of the boundaries of the territory she then claimed supremacy over, and came on westward and settled within the French and Spanish territory. The capture of these British posts of the Northwest was eventually the cause of the western boundary of the United States being fixed at the Mississippi River by the Treaty of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war and established the Independence of the United States.

NEBRASKA UNDER FRENCH AND SPANISH RULES

The viceroys who ruled over the vast territory of New France in central America, may be said indirectly to be the first governmental administrators over this part of the continent from which Nebraska eventually sprang.

The dates of these administrations were:

Robert, Cavalier de La Salle.....	1682-1688
Marquis de Sanville.....	1689-1700
Bienville	1700-1712
Lamothe Cadillac	1713-1715
De L'Epinay	1716-1717
Bienville	1718-1723
Boisbriant	1724
Bienville	1732-1741
Baron de Kelerec.....	1753-1762
D'Abbadie	1763-1766

At this point, France was compelled by force of military necessity to yield to Spain her title to Louisiana. So for almost forty years, the administration of this region passed into Spanish hands, until in 1803, when the territory passed under the flag of the United States. The Spanish governors of that period were:

Antonio de Ulloa.....	1767-1768
Alexander O'Reilly	1768-1769
Louis de Unzago.....	1770-1776
Bernardo de Galvez.....	1777-1784
Estevar Miro	1785-1787
Francisco Luis Hortu, Baron of Carondelet.....	1789-1792
Gayoso de Lemos.....	1793-1798
Sebastian de Casa, Calvo y O'Farrel.....	1789-1799
Jean Manual de Salcedo.....	1800-1803

Despite the fact that France had regained possession of Louisiana on October 1, 1800, Governor Salcedo remained until the United States took formal possession.

AMERICAN EXPLORATIONS

Immediately after American acquisition of this vast territory, men's minds began to turn to the Northwest and the great possibilities of this virtually unknown region. It was indeed a tremendous acquisition to the territory of the young republic. It more than doubled the previous land area of the United States. In round numbers it exceeded 883,000 square miles. In addition to the State of Louisiana, out of this territory there have been carved the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota, two-thirds of Minnesota, one-third of Colorado, and three-fourths of Wyoming. When it came to the United States, its entire population did not exceed five thousand souls, nearly one-half of whom were slaves. In 1810, the first federal census showed a population of twenty thousand, of whom one-half were still negro slaves. Now it has a population, in 1920, of around fifteen million.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

1804. When Jefferson negotiated the purchase of this vast region, it was an almost unknown land except to Indians, traders, hunters and some French priests.

Mention has already been made of some few visitors to this Nebraska region among the French missionaries and explorers. Pierre and August Chouteau, brothers engaged in the fur trade, are known to have passed beyond the forks of the Platte away back in 1762. No doubt other traders, whose visit did not reach the recorded pages of history, likewise temporarily sojourned in this Nebraska area prior to 1804. But that date marks the real beginning of opening this part of the western country up to eastern attention.

The Lewis and Clark expedition left St. Louis on the 14th of May, 1804, and spent two whole years exploring the great purchase. This party, consisting of nine young men from Kentucky, fourteen soldiers of the United States army who volunteered their services, two French watermen, an interpreter and hunter, and a black servant belonging to Captain Clark, and several other members set forth. They came in sight of the present Nebraska on the afternoon of July 11, 1804, and camped opposite the mouth of the big Nemaha.

This party recorded 556 miles of river front for Nebraska in 1804, and their journals furnish the first detailed report upon this region, and served materially in familiarizing the East with this vast region and its unlimited resources, and paved the way for commercial ventures that followed soon thereafter.

Lack of space will forbid going into detail concerning the brave work accomplished by Lieut. William Clark and Capt. Meriwether Lewis, and their immediate successors.

1805. This year brought the first known settlement upon Nebraska soil. Manuel Lisa, a wealthy Spaniard, with a party in search of trading grounds, reached the lands north of the Platte. The beauty of the spot caused him to exclaim "Bellevue," which name was given to the spot. A trading post was established at Bellevue, and we have now reached the point of first settlements.

1806. In this year, Gen. James Wilkinson, then commander-in-chief of the United States army and also governor of the territory of Louisiana, sent forth the expedition of Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, which resulted in the discovery of Pike's Peak, in Colorado. It has been somewhat a subject of controversy whether this party, in its travel along a route somewhat south of the Platte, really crossed north into Nebraska or stayed in northern Kansas. But it is generally thought that Lieutenant Pike in September, 1806, visited a Pawnee village in the Republican valley.

THE ASTORIAN EXPEDITION

1810. The American Fur Company, that monster monopoly under the control of John Jacob Astor, took the first real steps to exploit this northwestern country for commercial purposes. In 1810, Astor organized the Pacific Fur Corporation, a partnership including himself, Wilson Price Hunt, Robert Stuart and others for the purpose of colonization and trade at the mouth of the Columbia River. The Astorian Expedition started out in September, 1810, and founded Astoria at the head of the Columbia River in the spring of the following year.

1811. Hunt's party of Astorians passed up the Nebraska "river coast" early in 1811.

1812. On the 28th of June, 1812, Robert Stuart started from Astoria with five of Hunt's original party for a return overland trip. In southeastern Idaho

they were joined by four men, whom Hunt had left there the October preceding. After a journey of terrible hardships they established winter quarters on the North Platte River, not far east of the place where it issues from the mountains. Driven out of their first stopping place by hostile Indians, they came over three hundred miles eastward along the Platte River, and in December, 1812, established winter camp in what is now the Scotts Bluff country.

1813. This party came down the Platte River in spring of 1813. It is chronicled that they came down this river to "Great Island," which is probably the first official mention of the future Grand Island. At least they proceeded to a point forty-five miles from the mouth of the Platte, and there on April 16, 1813, embarked in a large canoe they secured from the Indians.

LONG'S EXPEDITION

1819. The passage of Maj. Stephen H. Long and a party of twenty men from the Missouri River up the Platte to its head waters is the next event of importance in this period of Nebraska's history. The most interesting feature of Major Long's visit to Nebraska is, perhaps, his account of the hopelessness of central Nebraska for future development.

In regard to the Platte Valley, he recorded:

"In regard to this extensive section of country, I do not hesitate in giving the opinion that it is almost wholly unfit for cultivation and of course uninhabitable by a people depending upon agriculture for their subsistence."

In his final estimate, Major Long summed up his ideas of the utility of this central Nebraska territory, as follows:—

"Although tracts of fertile land considerably extensive are occasionally to be met with, yet the scarcity of wood and water, almost uniformly prevalent, will prove an insurmountable obstacle in the way of settling the country. This objection rests not only against the section immediately under consideration, but applies with equal propriety to a much larger portion of the country.

"This region, however, viewed as a frontier, may prove of infinite importance to the United States, inasmuch as it is calculated to serve as a barrier to prevent too great an extension of our population westward, and secure us against the machinations or incursions of an enemy that might otherwise be disposed to annoy us in that part of our frontier."

In a somewhat similar view, another narrator of the same expedition, Doctor James, paid about as correct a tribute to Nebraska:

"We have little apprehension of giving too unfavorable an account of this portion of the country. Though the soil is in some places fertile, the want of timber, of navigable streams, and of water for the necessities of life, render it an unfit residence for any but a nomad population. The traveler who shall at any time have traversed its desolate sands will, we think, join us in the wish that this region may forever remain the unmolested haunt of the native hunter, the bison, and the jackal."

If Major Long and Doctor James could only see Nebraska in 1919-1920, don't you suppose, dear reader, they would at least request the privilege of "another guess"?

TRAIL BLAZERS

1820-1850. In the thirty years following Major Long's trip through Nebraska, the tide of exploration kept on the rise. Space does not permit of going into detail into these various expeditions, but there are a few of these courageous prospects whose memory deserves the tribute of at least a passing mention.

Thomas Nuttall and John Bradbury spent a part of 1808 in the Nebraska territory botanizing.

Manuel Lisa was not only the founder of Old Nebraska, but his life in this territory was romantic. He led in the explorations of this territory, established trading posts, and opened trading relations with the Indians. He somewhat emulated the example of some Indians in having more than one wife. Every year from 1807 to 1819, inclusive, with perhaps one exception, he made trips into the Northwest. While he had a white wife in St. Louis he married an Omaha Indian girl, telling her people he had another wife down the river. This Indian wife, Mitain, was the mother of his daughter, Rosalie, and son Raymond. After the death of his wife in St. Louis, he married in 1818, Mary Hempstead Keeney, who survived him many years and was familiarly known as "Aunt Manuel." She was the first white woman to come into Nebraska, with the possible exception of Madam Lajoie in 1770. Lisa died in 1820, but "Aunt Manuel" lived nearly fifty years afterwards.

Milton Sublette in the spring of 1830 traveled over nearly the same trail Robert Stuart used in 1813.

Capt. Benjamin Louis Eulalia Bonneville took a party of about one hundred men with twenty-four horse wagons over the Oregon trail in 1832. He took the first wagon train over that part of the trail known as the cut-off between Independence, Kansas, and Grand Island, Nebraska.

Peter A. Sarpy became agent for the American Fur Company at Bellevue, and for about thirty years was the leading spirit of that region. He first came to Nebraska about 1823 as a clerk for this same company. He was intimately associated with the Indians of his period, and was accorded the title "White Chief" by the Omahas. He married according to Indian custom, Ni-co-mi (Voice of the Waters), a woman of the Iowa Indians, to whom he was greatly attached.

John C. Fremont, the "Pathfinder," was detailed in 1842 to "explore and report upon the country between the frontiers of Missouri and the south pass of the Rocky Mountains and on the line of the Kansas and great Platte rivers." He followed the Oregon trail to the mountains, and left behind him a very descriptive and valuable report of the Nebraska country at that time.

Col. Stephen W. Kearny made an expedition through the "Indian country" in 1845. He became an important figure in Nebraska's early history, and in his honor, with the spelling of the name slightly changed, has been named a county, Kearney, and one of the leading cities of the state, Kearney, as well as the historic forts, first near Nebraska City, and second, on the Platte, between present Kearney City and Lowell, Nebraska.

Father Peter J. De Smet was a Belgian, who came as missionary to the Indians of the Platte and upper Missouri in 1838. He was the first Catholic missionary in this country, and here he worked for thirty years. He died in 1873, and was buried in St. Louis.

George Catlin was the first painter of Nebraska scenery and Nebraska Indians. He made his first voyage into this region in 1832. He painted pictures of Blackbird Hill, of the junction of the Platte and Missouri rivers, of prairie fires, buffalo hunting, Indian weapons, games, customs and portraits of prominent Indians, and since in those days there were no camera or moving-picture machines, Catlin's oil-paintings made Nebraska's first picture-gallery.

Prince Maximilian, of Germany, made a trip up the Missouri River in 1833, on the second voyage of the steamer *Yellowstone*. In his publication of a three volume work on his American travels, the Nebraska of that day received practically its first introduction to élite Europe.

GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN NEBRASKA TERRITORY

1803. Taking up the governmental administration of this region, at the point when the Spanish Governor relinquished it to the United States in 1803. On April 30th of that year, Napoleon Bonaparte, acting for France, ceded to the United States this 1,182,752 acres of land, in the most important real estate transaction in American history, for \$15,000,000, or about 4 cents an acre. The American "Stars and Stripes" were raised in New Orleans, and the purchase became formally American soil.

1804. In this year, and less than sixty days after the first council was held on Nebraska soil, between representatives of the United States and Indians, at Fort Calhoun, Nebraska became part of the territory of Indiana. It so remained from October 1, 1804, until July 4, 1805.

1805. On March 3, 1805, Congress changed the district of Louisiana to the Territory of Louisiana, and it remained a portion of that territory, with the capital at St. Louis, until in June, 1812.

1812. At this time, the territory of Louisiana became the Territory of Missouri.

1819. A bill was passed providing statehood for Missouri, and the territory of Arkansas was created out of the balance of the territory of Missouri.

1820. After Missouri reached formal statehood the great western territory was thrown into the "Indian Country." Woeful neglect of this region followed, until in 1834, the jurisdiction of the United States District Court of Missouri was extended over it, portions of it were annexed to Michigan and Arkansas territories. The slavery controversies, increased in bitterness by the controversies following the admission of Missouri, and the California problem, continued to interfere with development of governmental functions in this far-away region of the western part of the Louisiana purchase.

Finally in the '40s and '50s, came the struggle to establish the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, outlined in another chapter of this work, upon the Territorial Government of Nebraska.

THE MORMONS

During the half century between the days of the military expedition of Lewis and Clark, and the arrival of Manuel Lisa in 1805, and the actual organization of Nebraska into a territorial government, circumstances conspired to send thousands of white men into, but mostly through, Nebraska. First, the chain of explorers

and adventurers whose effect upon and participation in Nebraska's early history has already been detailed. Second, the soldiers who were sent in for various purposes by the Government. Third, the trappers and hunters, and the traders who came in. Fourth, the missionaries. Fifth, the emigrants who passed through the state, and lastly, the earlier settlers who stayed and made their homes in the unbroken wilderness.

Those who passed through the state, or stayed but a short time, comprised mainly the emigrants going farther west; the Mormons and the gold seekers. These last two divisions of visitors or short-time residents will now be taken up briefly.

First, in point of numbers and time, among these various migratory bands, came the Mormons. This religious sect had been driven from its home at Nauvoo, Illinois, and was now, after much buffeting around, massing on the banks of the Missouri, preparatory to crossing the "Great Desert" to the Promised Land beyond the reach of law. They had crossed Iowa by various routes, squatting for a time here and there, and finally massing, in 1845 and 1846, about six miles north of Omaha, at what is now known as Florence, but was then termed by the Mormons as "Winter Quarters." Here it is estimated by students that about fifteen thousand people congregated. The devastation wrought upon their wild lands by such an army of non-producers naturally aroused the wrath of the Indians, to whom those lands then really belonged. They felt that the Mormons were cutting too much timber. When this complaint began to bring about an exit of the Mormons, many took refuge on the east side of the river, in what is now Pottawattamie County, near Council Bluffs, Iowa. Soon an expedition of eighty wagons was sent out in search of a permanent home for the Latter Day Saints, and that action resulted in the selection of the Salt Lake Valley in Utah. But at what a cost! The trail from Winter Quarters to Salt Lake City was indelibly marked out for later comers. Cast away garments, broken and burned vehicles, bleaching bones of cattle and horses fallen by the wayside, and graves of weary pilgrims scattered along the route of a thousand miles told the cost.

Many a disheartened wanderer shrank from facing these hardships and preferred to settle along the route of progress in the fertile valleys of Nebraska. In this way numerous small Mormon settlements sprang up along the Platte and its forks. Among these, some of the most interesting, were the Genoa settlement in Nance County, and the Shelton settlement, at old Wood River, clustered around the county line between Hall and Buffalo counties. At the Genoa settlement a large tract of land was enclosed and divided among a hundred or so families, comprising the original settlers, and they supposed foundations had been laid for solid prosperity. But, unfortunately for them, this land was part of the tract set aside for the Pawnee Indians, by the treaty of 1857. So they could not obtain title to these lands, and by reason of this fact, and the harassment of the Sioux and Pawnee, they had to move on.

The first Mormons had settled near Salt Lake City about 1847. The emigration continued from then for more than ten years. The fact that so many finally reached their destination was perhaps due to their careful organization when traveling in parties. Each man carried a rifle or musket and such discipline was maintained on the march that oftentimes the Indians passed up a squad of Mormons and attacked a much larger body of emigrants. The route blazed by the Mormons from Keokuk, Iowa, to the Missouri River gained the name of the "Mormon Trail," and Omaha became a favorite crossing point. For a decade or so, the trade with these excur-

sionists formed a profitable part of the Omaha business interests. They stayed but a few years in the Wood River Valley between Grand Island and Fort Kearney, and they too passed westward.

THE GOLD HUNTERS

Next after the Mormons came the flood of emigrants to California, in search of the most seductive, most powerful, metal known to man. The fever of 1849, sweeping over the country, brought a veritable flood of emigration through the Platte Valley and played a material part in permanently blazing the numerous famous "trails" or "highways" through Nebraska. This event had other effects upon the state. "The moving host left here and there a permanent impress on the land." In many instances, the land so charmed the eye, and created so abiding an impression on the mind of many a beholder, that, wearied with the unequal contest of the camp, they abandoned the pick and spade for the surer implements of husbandry. Almost every Nebraska county can number among its earliest pioneers those adventurous spirits who chased the lure of the gold about so long, and then turned to the plow and herd for slower but surer competence and gain. Some stopped off; others went on farther and returned; and many traversed the entire weary trail, and then disheartened retraced their steps this far. Another effect of this emigration was the establishment of a ferry between what is now Omaha and Council Bluffs, by William D. Brown, in 1851 or 1852. In 1853, he laid claim to the site of Omaha. The western travel, which had at first been crossing via "Winter Quarters," as Florence was then called, began to divert rapidly to "Lone Tree" as the site of Omaha was then called.

"LIFE ON THE PLAINS"

A beautiful word-picture from the pen of Prof. Samuel Aughey, forty years ago, will prove a fitting climax to this brief review of pre-territorial days of Nebraska.

"Life on the plains! What memories are awakened within the breast of many a resident of Nebraska at the 'sight and sound of those words.' When the golden spike was driven which bound together the iron links in the great national highway, the knell of that wild period in the history of the wild west was struck." The whistle of the first locomotive in its fierce rush across the hitherto trackless expanse ended forever that scene in the drama of progress, which was alike comedy and tragedy. 'I crossed the plains' are words, when spoken by the bronzed and hardy pioneer, which signify more than men of later generation can conceive of. The toiling caravan of emigrants to the El Dorado of the Pacific slope; the venturesome cavalcade of daring hunters; the solitary group of mountaineers—a class peculiar to the "Rockies"—have passed beyond the view, and all that now remain of them are scattered traces of forgotten graves, a few survivors of those scenes, busied with other tasks, and vague traditions of the times, which horrify or charm, as deeds of murder, robbery or love perchance to give the coloring to the tale.

"Nebraska was the highway to the West when lumbering wagons furnished the only means of transport, as now, when steam and palace cars augment the speed and comfort of the journey. Imagine—if you can—and you, survivor of the olden time, conjure up a vision of modern methods, as in fancy you live once more those

days of hardship. You lift your head from the damp earth, and by the flickering light of waning camp fire, see the mighty engine dashing by, with train of sleeping coaches, freighted with slumbering voyagers. And, as you gather about the morning fire, with scanty meal, behold the men who look disgusted at their morning bill of fare within the dining coach, and sigh because their journey is a wearying one. They will reach their destinations within the week, while you can count the time by months since you stood looking eastward, as night shut down upon you and blotted out the last rude traces of the 'States'! And still long months of deprivation must ensue before you gain the end of that slow march.

"Let us give place in this history to mention of those events which were, if not direct, at least subsidiary, agencies in the original settlement of Nebraska, and which demonstrated the fact that the Valley of the Platte was the only route of travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific within the limits of the more temperate latitudes."

We must not run amiss and devote our entire time in a work that is chronological and analytical of the evolution of the wonderful State of Nebraska from the wild prairie, abode of the Indian and his companions, the wild animals of the wilderness, to its present stages of development, without devoting at least a small space to a recital of the hardships and struggles, characteristic of those endured by the many thousands of pioneers, emigrants and first settlers, who each individually played their part in this drama. It is not possible to pause here and compile the roster for each county, of its early settlers, as we have stopped to pay tribute to a score or so early explorers and adventurers who led bands of people into or across the state. But a few hundred more words will also allow to embrace in our narrative a characteristic account of the journeys across these plains, endured by the gold seekers and early settlers alike. This is also from the pen of Nebraska's notable early historian Prof. Samuel Aughey.

"In remote times—remote for the West—the beginning of the 'West' was at the Mississippi. Western Illinois and Wisconsin and Eastern Iowa were accessible by water by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The region beyond was known only to the courageous few who had braved the perils of a wilderness inhabited by hostile tribes. But, in 1850, when the fever for gold had spread throughout the East, the limits of civilization had extended so far that supplies of horses, mules, cattle, wagons, coffee, flour, bacon, sugar and the indispensables of a trip across the plains were obtainable at points on the Missouri River, in the State of Missouri. Parties endeavored to reach that stream early in the spring, that they might take advantage of the growth of vegetation as food for their teams. While some caravans followed the Arkansas (in the present state of Kansas), many more chose to come up the Missouri, and thence travel westward along the rich Valley of the Platte. Thus was first opened up to observant pioneers the beauties of this region. Hundreds of improvident but eager men set out so late in the season as to encounter the rigor of the winter in the mountains, and many perished miserably from exposure and starvation. Others started early enough to safely pass the Rocky Mountains, only to meet their fate in the inhospitable fastnesses of the Sierra Nevada, where snow frequently piles to the depths of thirty and forty feet in localities. Among the very early trials were the dangers incident to crossing a country inhabited by fierce Indians. If the truth could be known, probably every mile from the Missouri to the Pacific would demand at least one headstone to mark a victim's grave. The stages

of life, from birth, to the closing of the drama, were here exemplified. Many a poor mother hushed her new-born babe amid the rough scenes of a camp, while she herself was suffering from lack of those comforts so essential to maternity. Along the trackless plain many a maiden awoke to the revelation of love, and many a troth was plighted.

"At the time referred to, the whole region, from the Missouri to the Pacific, was vaguely known as 'the plains,' though it embraced almost every variety of country. First, the emigrant crossed the rich, rolling prairies of Nebraska. The soil grew thinner and thinner until it merged into dreary sand deserts. Upon these he found myriads of prairie dogs, sometimes living in towns twenty miles square herds of graceful antelopes bounded over the hills, and huge, ungainly buffaloes, which numbered millions then, blackened parts of the landscape. A day's journey was from ten to twenty miles. When the company halted for the night, they turned out their animals to graze, with such precautions as served to prevent their escape; lighted a fire on the prairies of buffalo chips, and supped upon pork, hot bread or 'flap-jacks' and washed the frugal repast down with the inevitable tin cup of coffee. Their trusty guns were kept within easy reach, and the whitened skull of a buffalo, perhaps killed by some emigrant long before in wanton sport, served as a seat. At night, the travelers slept soundly, with the blue of heaven for a canopy. The wagons were covered with stout canvas, and afforded protection to the few women and children during the later years of excitement. All became inured to the conditions of outdoor life. When large streams were reached, the heavy wagons were floated or hauled, and where it was convenient to do so, rude bridges were constructed over smaller streams. Every source of ingenuity was developed. If a wheel gave way, and the mechanical productiveness of the party could not replace it, a cottonwood log, with one end dragging on the ground, was made to serve instead. If a pole broke, another was extemporized from the nearest timber. If an ox died, some luckless cow was yoked in his place. Sometimes one family, or one party of half a dozen men, journeyed alone, and sometimes there were a hundred or more wagons in a single 'train' with their white covers enveloped in an increasing cloud of dust. During the seasons when emigration was very heavy, caravans could, from an eminence, be seen stretching out for miles and miles, and at night every pleasant camping-ground was a populous village. The journey was not without its enjoyments, though one's philosophy was sorely tried at times. There were often long delays for hunting lost cattle, waiting for swollen streams to subside, or in climbing the mountains. Storms and mishaps frequently taxed the patience of all, and sickness came to feeble frame and hardy men alike. The first of a long line of trains often climbed steep hills, instead of going the longer and easier way through ravines, and the followers along the new roads were forced to desert the beaten track, and risk untried courses, or labor on in their wake. It was not uncommon to see from ten to thirty yoke of oxen hitched to a single wagon, working slowly up the mountain. The summit reached at last, the wagon would be emptied, and, with a huge log trailing behind as a brake, the teams would descend to repeat their experience in ascending with other loads. The wild, majestic scenery along the way may have been a partial compensation to some for the hardships they endured; but it is reasonable to believe that few would have refused to forego those delights if thereby they might have gained easier transit. The tragedies of those days were numerous. The very nature of the journey, and the chances of sudden wealth, combined with the

freedom of the manner of the living, gathered many a desperate character in the civil army. The baser passions were too often allowed full scope, and hence it must be recorded that many a villain found his end at the hands of outraged companions. The travelers were a law unto themselves, and greed or lust were summarily avenged."

THE OVERLAND TRAILS

In our present state of prosperity and happiness, we must not be prone to forget the aspect that nature wore in those primitive solitudes to the wandering view of the first inhabitants of our state. We can well pause a bit, to go into a little more detailed examination of the pathways and methods of early travel and transportation of our state. The mighty wave of travel which has just been described in the immediately preceding pages naturally traversed a few beaten paths, and it is an examination of those "beaten paths" we will now undertake.

There is as yet but scanty knowledge of Indian or prehistoric routes of travel through Nebraska. From the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Pike's expedition, Fremont's expedition and Thwaite's admirable compilation of early explorations in this vicinity, we find the accounts of the state of travel and the condition of the territory then. The chroniclers of the '40s intimate that there were then no well defined trails between the locations of the different tribes of the Indians, but that each tribe had its own trails between the locations of the several bands of its own tribe.

But whatever the story of the Indian trails may be, as they related to the earliest history of Nebraska, we know that a number of notable routes sprang up across the state, which became the main arteries of commerce to the Northwest, preceding the arrival of the transcontinental railroad.

HAVE YOU AN EYE

Have you an eye, for the trails, the trails,
The old mark and the new?
What scurried here, what loitered there,
In the dust and in the dew?

Have you an eye for the beaten track,
The old hoof and the young?
Come name me the drivers of yesterday,
Sing me the songs they sung.

O was it a schooner last went by,
And where will it cross the stream?
Where will it halt in the early dusk,
And where will the camp-fire gleam?

They used to take the shortest cut
The cattle trails had made;
Get down the hill by the easy slope
To the water and the shade.

But it's barbed wire fence, and section line,
And kill-horse travel now:
Scoot you down the canyon bank—
The old road's under plough.

Have you an eye for the laden wheel,
The worn tire or the new?
Or the sign of the prairie pony's hoof
That was never trimmed for shoe?

O little by-path and big highway,
Alas, your lives are done.
The freighter's track, a weed-grown ditch,
Points to the setting sun.

The marks are faint and rain will fall
The lore is hard to learn.
O hear, what ghosts would follow the road
If the old years might return.

The most famous of these great transcontinental highways was known to the traders, ranchmen, and overland stage drivers, as the "Military Road," but more commonly and properly known as

THE OREGON TRAIL

A fairly accurate itinerary of this trail as it traversed the State of Nebraska can be taken from the notes of Fremont and travelers of his period, and indicate it passed as follows:

"From the point at Independence, Missouri, where the trail starts northwest, for a distance of 41 miles, it is identical with the Santa Fe Trail; to the Kansas River, 81 miles; to the Big Blue River, 242 miles; to the Little Blue, 296 miles; Platte River, 316 miles; lower ford of South Platte River, 433 miles; upper ford of South Platte River, 493 miles; Chimney Rock, 571 miles; Scotts Bluff, 616 miles. Adding the distance from the northwest boundary of Nebraska to Fort Vancouver, the terminus, yields a total of 2,020 miles. The trail crossed the present Nebraska southern boundary line at or very near the point of the intersection of the 97th meridian, about four miles west of the southeast corner of Jefferson County. It left the Little Blue at a bend beyond this point, but reached it again just beyond Hebron. It left the stream finally at a point near Leroy, and reached the Platte River about twenty miles below the western or upper end of Grand Island. Proceeding thence along the south bank of Platte River, it crossed the south fork about sixty miles from the junction and touched the north fork at Ash Hallow, twenty miles beyond the south fork crossing.

As it is the desire of the compiler of this historical review of Nebraska to preserve somewhere within its pages something of the many contributions to Nebraska historical records and lore, prepared by Hon. A. E. Sheldon, who has devoted many years to the preservation of Nebraska historical facts, it is believed that his brief but comprehensive recital of the "Overland Trails," in his "History and Stories of Nebraska," will appropriately serve this purpose. At the same time it is short enough to fit into our work here, yet cover the proportionate space we can devote to this particular subject.

Each of the old overland trails which crosses Nebraska from the Missouri River to the mountains had a story. It is a story written deep in the lives of men and women, and in the westward march of the American people. The story of these overland trails was also written in broad deep furrows across our prairies. Along

these trails journeyed thousands of men, women and children with ox teams, carts, wheelbarrows, and on foot, to settle the great country beyond. Over them marched the soldiers who built forts to protect the settlers. Then the long freighting trains loaded with food, tools and clothing passed that way. So there came to be great beaten thoroughfares one or two hundred feet wide, deeply cut in the earth by the wheels of wagons and the feet of pilgrims.

The Oregon Trail was the first and most famous of these in Nebraska. It started from the Missouri River at Independence, Missouri, ran across the northeast corner of Kansas and entered Nebraska near the point where Gage and Jefferson counties meet on the Nebraska-Kansas line. It followed the course of the Little Blue River across Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Clay and Adams counties, then across the divide to the Platte, near the head of Grand Island in Hall County (missing Hall County by about two miles), then along the south side of the Platte through Kearney, Phelps, Gosper and Dawson to a point in Kieth County about seven miles east of Big Springs, where it crossed the South Platte and continued up the south side of the North Platte through Kieth, Garden, Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties, where it passed out of Nebraska into Wyoming.

The beginnings of the Oregon Trail in Nebraska were made in 1813 by a little band of returning Astorians as they, leading their one poor horse, tramped their weary way down the Platte Valley to the Otoe village, where they took canoes for their journey down the river. These first Oregon trailers left no track deep enough to be followed. They simply made known the way. After them fur traders on horseback and afoot followed nearly the same route. On April 10, 1830, Milton Sublette with ten wagons and one milch cow left St. Louis and arrived at the Wind River Mountains on July 16th. They returned to St. Louis the same summer, bringing back ten wagons loaded with furs and the faithful cow which furnished milk all the way. Theirs were the first wagon wheels on the Oregon Trail across Nebraska. The track they made from the mouth of the Kansas River up the valley of the Little Blue and up the south side of the Platte and North Platte was followed by others, and thus became the historic trail. Their famous cow, and the old horse, which seventeen years before carried the burdens for the Astorians are entitled to a high place among the pioneers of the West.

In 1832, Captain Bonneville, whose story is told by Washington Irving, followed over Sublette's trail from the Missouri River to the mountains. In the same year Nathaniel J. Wyeth following the same trail, pushed through the South Pass in the mountains and on to Oregon, thus making an open road from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. With slight changes, this road remained the Oregon Trail through the years of overland travel. Every spring in May, the long emigrant wagon trains left the Missouri River and arrived on the Pacific Coast in November. It was a wonderful trip. Every day the train moved fifteen or twenty miles. Every night it camped. Every day there were new travelers. Children were born on the way. There were weddings and funerals. It was a great traveling city, moving 2,000 miles from the river to the ocean.

There are five periods in the story of the Oregon Trail. The first was the period of finding the way and breaking the trail and extends from the return of the Astorians in 1813 to the Wyeth wagons in 1832. The second period was that of the early Oregon migration and extends from 1832 to the discovery of gold in California in 1849. The third period was that of the rush for gold and extends

from 1849 to 1860. During this period the Oregon Trail became the greatest traveled highway in the world, wider and more beaten than a city street and hundreds of thousands passed over it. The fourth period is that of the decline of the Oregon Trail and extends from 1860 to 1869. The fifth period, from 1869 to the present day, is witnessing its gradual effacement.

The best brief description of the Oregon Trail is that of Father De Smet, who knew it well and tells of its appearance when first seen by him and his party of Indians from the Upper Missouri in 1851:

"Our Indian companions, who had never seen but the narrow hunting paths by which they transport themselves and their lodges, were filled with admiration on seeing this noble highway, which is as smooth as a barn floor swept by the winds, and not a blade of grass can shoot up on it on account of the continual passing. They conceived a high idea of the countless white nations. They fancied that all had gone over that road and that an immense void must exist in the land of the rising sun. They styled the route the 'Great Medicine Road of the Whites.'"

In another place Father De Smet tells of the Great Government wagon trains he met on the Oregon Trail in 1858:

"Each train consisted of twenty-six wagons, each wagon drawn by six yoke of oxen. The trains made a line fifty miles long. Each wagon is marked with a name as in the case of ships, and these names served to furnish amusement to the passers-by. Such names as The Constitution, The President, The Great Republic, The King of Bavaria, Louis Napoleon, Dan O'Connell, Old Kentuck, were daubed in great letters on each side of the carriage. On the plains the wagoner assumes the style of Captain, being placed in command of his wagon and twelve oxen. The master wagoner is admiral of this little fleet of 26 captains and 312 oxen. At a distance the white awnings of the wagons have the effect of a fleet of vessels with all canvas spread."

OTHER TRAILS

"The second important trail across Nebraska is the one which started from the banks of the Missouri River near Bellevue and Florence, followed up the north side of the Platte and North Platte to Fort Laramie, where it joined the older Oregon Trail. This was the route across Nebraska of the returning Astorians in 1813 and some of the early fur traders. The Mormons made this a wagon road in 1847 when their great company which wintered at Florence and Bellevue took this way to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. It was often called the Mormon Trail. Some of the immigrants to Oregon and California went over this route and hence it is sometimes called the Oregon Trail or California Trail. There was less travel on this trail than on the one south of the Platte River because there was more sand here. (This is in recent years more commonly called the 'Overland Trail.') This north side trail ran through the counties of Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Garden, Morrill and Scotts Bluff." (It will be noticed that this very closely parallels the route eventually selected for the transcontinental, Union Pacific, or Overland, railway.)

"The third celebrated trail across Nebraska was from the Missouri River to Denver, and was called the Denver Trail. It had many branches between the Missouri River and Fort Kearney. Near this point they united and followed up the south bank of the Platte to Denver. The route from Omaha to Denver was

up the north bank of the Platte to Shinn's Ferry in Butler County, where it crossed to the south side and continued up the river to Fort Kearney.

"There was also a road from Nebraska City up the south bank of the Platte, which was joined by the Omaha road after it crossed the river. It was called the Fort Kearney and Nebraska City road. A new and more direct road was laid out in 1860 from Nebraska City west through the counties of Otoe, Lancaster, Seward, York, Hall and Kearney. This was the best road to Denver. It was called the Nebraska City cut-off. It became very popular and during the years from 1862 to 1869 was traveled by thousands of immigrants and freighters. Over the Denver Trail went the Pike's Peak immigrants and the supplies and machinery for opening the mines in Colorado."

THE DECLINE OF THESE TRAILS

Upon the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1869, the passage and decline of these trails started at a rapid rate. Short stretches from one town or settlement to another became regular roads, but remained no longer integral parts of a great through highway of travel. At many places through Nebraska, traces of the old wagon wheels or tracks remain visible.

THE STAGE COACHES

Before we pass entirely from this period, it would only be fitting to give short consideration to the conveyances and methods of travel used in the period we have just been discussing. Overland stages had been the main means of travel before the advent of the railroad coach. The great trails just recounted, across the State of Nebraska served as highways for the Overland stage from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The most commonly used vehicle for this work was the light Concord coach, so-called because they were first built at Concord, New Hampshire. They accommodated usually nine passengers inside and often one or two sat outside with the driver.

With the Overland Stage developed the Overland Mail. The first contract for carrying this mail was let in 1850 to Samuel H. Woodton, of Independence, Missouri. This was a monthly service on a route with terminals 1,200 miles apart, St. Louis, and Salt Lake City, with the service later extended to Sacramento, California. Through Nebraska, this service substantially followed the Oregon Trail. The hard winter of 1856-7 blocked this route for several months. The California mail coach was then placed on a southern route through Arizona, but with the Civil war it was brought north again and in 1861, the first daily overland mail began running from the Missouri River to California. This mail at first started from St. Joseph. After a few months it ran from Atchison, joining the Oregon Trail a few miles south of the Nebraska state line and following it as far as the crossing of the South Platte near Julesburg, where it diverted making a new road, called the Central Route, through the mountains to Salt Lake City. This was said to be the greatest stage line in the world. In 1859, the mail contract had been transferred to Russell, Majors & Waddell, who afterwards became the most extensive freighters in Nebraska from the Missouri River. The stages taking the Overland route usually followed the south side of the Platte River,

while the Union Pacific Railroad was later built on the north side of that river. These daily stage lines ran from 1861 to 1866 both ways, except for a short period during the Indian depredations of 1864.

THE PONY EXPRESS SYSTEM

The pony express system began April 3, 1860, and continued for eighteen months until the completion of the telegraph line to San Francisco. This system was originated by William H. Russell, of Leavenworth, Kansas, and was the forerunner of the great fast mail (postal) system of the United States. The pony express was a man on horseback carrying a mail bag and riding as fast as the horse could run. As the horse and man, covered with dust and foam, dashed into a station another man on horseback snatched the bag and raced to the next station. So the bag of letters and dispatches rushed day and night across the plains and mountains between the Missouri River and the ocean. It is reputed that the quickest time ever made by the pony express was in March, 1861, when President Lincoln's inaugural address was carried from St. Joseph to Sacramento, 1,980 miles, in seven days and seventeen hours. The charges were originally five dollars for each letter of one-half ounce or less; but afterwards this was reduced to two dollars and a half, this being in addition to the regular United States postage.

THEN AND NOW

But in 1920, we can hardly realize the full force of the importance of these old roads. We now see our succession of thriving cities, towns and villages of Nebraska, connected by rail, by telegraph, in some places by paved roads and dotted all over the state, with the new, leveled, graded, smooth state highway. -

Then the road led across the naked prairie from the Missouri River—wide, hard, and bare, except in real dry weather, with its terribly wrathful ruts. It followed no general course, unless in a general northwesterly direction. It crossed bridgeless streams, traversed through localities of great beauty, where the traveler might unwittingly scare away great numbers of antelope, buffalo, elk or deer, and even the worse, coyotes, wolves and animals of prey. Such a thoroughfare was traveled by as heterogeneous a mass of people as could be found anywhere—merchants, capitalists, freighters, prospectors, hunters, trappers, traders, soldiers, adventurers, pleasure seekers, home seekers, emigrants, Indians, Mormons, gamblers, outlaws, tourists and even representatives of foreign nations. Here and there some enterprising rancher supplied the freighters, soldiers, stage-drivers, emigrants and travelers with food and drink—especially drink.

Now the roads lead along well defined courses, generally well graded, often marked from mile to mile with plain directions as to course and distance. Not only is the road definitely defined but along its side traverse the poles with wires for telegraph, telephone and electric power transmission. Streams are well bridged, though once in a while one still stumbles upon the old rickety wooden bridge, not yet replaced with steel or concrete bridge. Where there formerly was only endless prairie, now to the vista appears magnificent farm mansions, and wonderful barns, even splendid garages, and machinery and stock palaces, innumerable sheds and smaller buildings, and many a farm with an automobile or two, a tractor, a power

plant, and much power driven machinery around. Instead of travel by foot, by horseback and stage coach, the most usual vehicles to dodge now are fast automobiles, chugging motorcycles, and occasionally a farm wagon or buggy of the type of a decade or two ago.

Out of it all is coming the permanently constructed highway. What the old national highway was to the plains, what the welcome transcontinental Union Pacific became, even now the great granddaughter of the old trail, the permanently constructed highway, bids fair to become—and very soon at that—unless the aerial highway for high-powered aeroplanes, and passenger balloons, overpowers it.

“There are highways born, the old roads die—
Can you read what once they said,
From the way worn ditch and the sunflower clump,
And the needs of folk long dead.”

CHAPTER IV

THE GRADUAL SETTLEMENT OF THE STATE

COUNTIES IN THE ORDER OF SETTLEMENT—SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES
—1810—1819—1826—1844—1846—1853—OMAHA — BROWNVILLE — NEMAHA
CITY—PLATTSMOUTH—NEBRASKA CITY—1854—1855—1856—COLUMBUS—FRE-
MONT—BEATRICE—GRAND ISLAND—1858—1860—1863—1866—NORTH PLATTE—
1867—1868—1869—SCHUYLER—WAHOO—BLAIR—FAIRBURY—NORFOLK — 1870
—1871-2—KEARNEY—1873—1877-1880—1881-2—1883.

“Hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be,
The first low wash of waves where soon
Shall roll a human sea.”

We have paid brief tribute in preceding chapters to the original inhabitants of Nebraska, the Indians, and to the intrepid, aggressive and determined explorers who found this fair state and opened it to the vista of the white settlers. We expect yet, in a chapter to follow, to pay brief tribute to the valiant pioneers who opened up the settlement of each county in the state. But to gain a connected and comprehensive conception of the gradual progression of the settlement of our state both in time and geographical scope, we may well pause and record a roster of the counties and communities in the order in which their settlement was perfected, before we attempt a separate consideration of each, in the usual course of alphabetical order.

COUNTIES IN ORDER OF SETTLEMENT

(No attempt has been made where settlements are attributed to several counties in the same year, to carry the event to months or days—but they are listed perhaps somewhat indiscriminately in that year. In most cases, a more definite date than merely giving the year is given in the separate consideration of the county, to follow in another chapter.)

Temporary Settlements

1810 and 1823. Present Sarpy County. (Post at Bellevue.)

1819 to 1827. Present Washington County. (Fort Atkinson.)

Permanent Settlements

Prior to 1844. Sarpy.

1844. Otoe, at Fort Kearney, later
Nebraska City, and Douglas,
at Florence.

1848. Kearney County, at new Fort
Kearney.

1853. Cass County, Plattsmouth.

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| 1854. Nemaha County. Brownville
and Nemaha City.
Dakota County.
Richardson County.
Pawnee County.
Jefferson County. | Saunders County.
Butler County.
Nance County.
Hall County.
Clay County.
Cedar County. |
| 1855. Washington County, permanent
settlement.
Burt County. | 1858. Buffalo County.
Saline County.
Nuckolls County. |
| 1856. Dodge County.
Colfax County.
Platte County.
Cuming County.
Knox County.
Johnson County. | 1859. Dixon County.
Kearney County, for permanent
settlement, outside of old Fort
Kearney.
Merrick County.
Seward County.
Lincoln County. |
| 1857. Gage County, permanent settle-
ment.
Lancaster County. | 1861. Dawson County. |

It will be noted at this point that settlement of new territory was virtually halted during the Civil war period and the period of worst Indian depredations, centering from 1862-1864. It will also be noted that the names of counties used in this list are the present names of the respective counties. Those which were formed with other names will be so differentiated when the order of organization of counties is discussed.

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|---|---|
| 1865. Stanton County.
Madison County.
York County. | 1870. Adams County.
Webster County.
Franklin County.
Harlan County.
Furnas County. |
| 1866. Fillmore County.
Pierce County. | 1871. Boone County.
Greeley County.
Howard County.
Red Willow County. |
| 1867. Hamilton County.
Polk County.
Keith County, embracing later
Perkins County.
Cheyenne County, along the
line of the new Union Pacific,
so embracing later Kimball
County.
Deuel County.
And in a way, Banner County
and Garden County which set-
tled soon after that time, for
cattle ranch purposes. | 1872. Sherman County.
Valley County.
Holt County, and from it Boyd
County.
Phelps County.
Gosper County.
Frontier County.
Hitchcock County, permanently. |
| 1868. Antelope County. | 1873. Garfield County, and a little
later into Wheeler County.
Chase County and probably
into Dundy County, and about
1880 into Hayes County. |
| 1869. Thayer County.
Wayne County.
Hitchcock County, this proving
somewhat temporary. | 1873-4. Custer County. |

1877. Sioux County.

In 1882, Cheyenne County included the present counties of Kimball, Deuel and Banner, which were partially settled; and the following counties, which received their permanent settlements at or shortly after that time.

Scotts Bluff County.

Morrill County.

Garden County.

In 1882, Sioux County covered an area now covered by sixteen counties. Of these, Holt and Sioux alone have been recorded. Between 1882 and 1886, settlements crept into territory now, Cherry County.

Brown County.

Rock County.

Keya Paha County.

Between 1886 and 1890, settlements crept into territory since formed into,

Blaine County.

Thomas County.

Grant County.

Hooker County.

Dawes County.

Sheridan County.

Logan County.

McPherson County and

Arthur County.

(Thurston County formed from Omaha Indian reservation territory.)

SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES

The foregoing roster of counties in the order of their settlement is mainly of statistical value. The real criterion of the time and rotation of settlement through the various parts of the state is best measured by a survey of the rotation in which the different towns, cities and small communities were projected, platted and incorporated.

On the 30th of May, 1854, when President Pierce affixed his signature to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Territory of Nebraska was very sparsely settled. The white population of the territory at that time was a little less than 3,000 souls, scattered among the little settlements at Bellevue, Omaha, Brownville and other places along the Missouri River bottoms.

While Lewis and Clark in 1804 and Manuel Lisa in 1805 had made their explorations along the east edge of the state it was not until 1810, that a permanent settlement was attempted in Nebraska.

1810. In that year, the American Fur Company, organized and controlled by the genius of John Jacob Astor, established a trading post at Bellevue. A French-Canadian by name of Francis Deroin was placed in charge. Deroin was succeeded by a fellow countryman, Joseph Robidoux, familiarly known as "Old Joe" and who was later the father of St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1816, his successor, John Carbanne came and stayed until 1824, when Col. Peter A. Sarpy took charge. Colonel Sarpy, for whom the county in which this post was situated was eventually named, was a splendid specimen of the hardy race of pioneers who laid the foundation stones of the wonderful structure of Nebraska. At the time of the formation of the territory, Sarpy was described as being fifty-five years of age, rather below medium in height, with black hair, dark complexion, well-knit and compact feature and a heavy beard that scorned the razor's edge for many years. His manner was commanding, his address fluent, and in the presence of the opposite sex, he was polished and fluent.

1819. The Government located a military post within the present limits of

Washington County. The post was then called Fort Atkinson, but afterwards the name was changed to Fort Calhoun. It stood on the spot where Lewis and Clark held their famous council with the chiefs of the Otoe and Missouri Indians. The fort was abandoned as a military post in 1827.

1826. Next to Peter Sarpy, John Boulware is believed to be the first white man to attempt a settlement in the yet unorganized Territory of Nebraska. He established himself at Fort Calhoun, in 1826, the year before the fort there was abandoned. A trading post near there had been moved to Bellevue in 1823. Boulware remained at Fort Calhoun for many years, but in 1846 he established, or rather was placed in charge of a Government ferry at Fort Kearney, at the present site of Nebraska City.

1844. Next to Bellevue, the attempting of any settlement is attributed to the sojourn of the Mormons in 1844, at the location of what is now the town of Florence, recently annexed to Omaha. Driven out of Illinois, buffeted across the plains of Iowa, the Mormons believed they could rest in peace on the banks of the Missouri and established their colony about six miles north of Omaha, at Florence. The land within and surrounding their settlement was cultivated and soon fully 10,000 disciples of Joseph Smith were gathered near here. But they were not destined to remain any great factor in Nebraska's development, for as soon as it was determined that Salt Lake City was to become the permanent capital of their empire, within which their teachings and practices would not be interrupted, they migrated to their modern Zion. So in 1851 the Mormons at Florence abandoned their prairie homes and journeyed westward.

1846. The next move in the unorganized territory was probably the establishment in 1846 of a small post called Fort Kearney, on the site of the present Nebraska City, and a ferry across the river at that point. The American Fur Company also in this year or perhaps in 1847, established a trading post at this point. This continued until 1854. The fort was used as a military post by the Government until 1848, when it was abandoned and the garrison moved to new Fort Kearney, in the present Kearney County, and below the present city of Kearney on the Platte River. It might be remarked that the original spelling of the valiant soldier for whom these various places were named was "Kearny," but it has gradually by usage been changed to this word with the "e" in the last syllable.

1853. This brings us to the year before the organization of the territory, with only Bellevue and perhaps Fort Calhoun and Nebraska City, then Fort Kearney, as what might be called permanent settlements. In the year 1853 several events took place forerunning the wave of settlement that began in 1854. A trading post was established in the southern part of Nemaha County, and the town of St. Deroine laid out. Robert Hawke, a merchant from the Nebraska City or Fort Kearney settlement, built a house and opened a store there. This was before the extinguishment of the Indian title and can hardly be regarded as more than an Indian post, rather than a new town. Council Bluffs had become a city of some two thousand by this time, and in June, 1853, a ferry was established by William D. Brown between Council Bluffs and the Nebraska side. The company was composed of William D. Brown, Joseph Street, Jesse Williams and Enos Lowe. Though these gentlemen frequently visited the Nebraska side, and attempted to "squat" claims, as the Indian title was not extinguished until the next year, permanent settlements on site of Omaha cannot be said to have commenced until

1854. Alfred D. Jones, a surveyor, who had shortly theretofore located the town of Winterset, Iowa, came over about this time and spotted the claim which he intended to and did file upon as soon as the opportunity offered. In the spring of 1853, Samuel Martin, having first obtained the necessary permission from the Government to establish a trading post in the Platte Country, crossed the river and erected a two-story building at the point on the south branch of the Platte River, near its mouth, where city of Plattsmouth was later located. Except for the temporary settlement of Stephen Story in 1844, in what is now Richardson County, where he stayed until 1850, this practically completes the roster of pre-territorial settlements in Nebraska. Two other trappers and hunters, Charles Martin and F. X. Dupuis, had also made temporary settlements in Richardson County in that period.

1854. This year not only marks the arrival of Governor Burt and the beginning of fixed territorial government, but the influx of settlers who established on a permanent basis most of the early communities.

Omaha. Early in the spring when it became a certainty that the territory would be organized and thrown open to settlement a number of men crossed from Council Bluffs and took up claims in and around the present Omaha. Among those whose names have been preserved are:—A. D. Jones, J. E. Johnson, Robert B. Whitted, William Clancy, Jeffry Brothers, J. C. Reeves, James Hickey, Benjamin Leonard, A. R. Gilmore, C. H. Downs, W. P. Snowden, O. B. Seldon, J. W. Paddock, William Gray, John Withnell, George L. Miller, A. J. Poppleton, Loran Miller, J. G. Mageath, A. B. Moore and O. D. Richardson. The first building was completed by A. D. Jones, on May 28, 1854, just two days before President Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. A townsite was selected, surveyed and platted, and named "Omaha." The history of Omaha alone would fill more than a volume, so space in this work will not permit of going very much into detail in the development of this, or any other community in this state, except the particular communities selected to be treated completely in the latter part hereof.

Brownville. In this year, Richard Brown came to Nemaha County, and located the spot where Brownville was developed. This town not only served for a time as county seat of Nemaha County but became in its halcyon days of the steamboat traffic, a really important town in early Nebraska. But with the arrival of railroads and decline of steamboat traffic, it deteriorated until it is now but a village of some five hundred inhabitants, after sixty-six years of existence. Ex-Governor Furnas was an early resident of this community. A great deal of interesting early history of this community could be given here if space permitted.

Nemaha City. Another community was established in Nemaha County this same year, at Nemaha City, four and a half miles below Brownville. Albert L. Coutt and Doctor Wyatt are believed to have been the first settlers. A ferry was chartered the next year, and later, in 1863, a toll bridge built, which was later superseded by a permanent county bridge. After some sixty-five years of existence, this community remains as a village of about four hundred inhabitants, with memories of an important part played in the early development of the state.

Plattsmouth and Nebraska City were formally platted, surveyed and laid out in this year, and took their place among the permanently established communities of the state. A few years later, both were bitter, earnest contenders for the state capital, but neither won that prize. Both developed into important railroad cen-

ters, and Nebraska City into an industrial center of some repute. In 1920, both rank as important cities in the second group in population.

Cincinnati was a village laid out in Pawnee County this year, the first real manifestation of permanent settlement in that county.

Archer and *Salem* were laid out in Richardson County this year; the former, incorporated the next year was designated as the first county seat of that county, and some years later, Salem won that prize for a few years' possession, until it lost it to Falls City, a town three years its junior.

Going north of Omaha, numerous settlements were projected and laid out in 1854. Among these were *Fort Calhoun*, on a permanent basis; *Fontanelle*, *De Soto* and *Cuming City*, all in Washington County.

1855. Though a claim had been staked the previous year, this year saw *Tekamah* in Burt County laid out.

From this point on, this survey does not, by any means, purport to record the settlement of every town and community in the state, but only selects the more prominent towns, for the purpose of showing how much farther and in what directions the new settlements have progressed each year.

1856. This year found Decatur in Burt County established. To the north, appear Dakota City and Niobrara (Knox County) and Ponca, the latter established by Doctor Stough in 1856. Spreading to the west, appear two towns destined to become important cities of the state, *Columbus* and *Fremont*. Dodge County also produced North Bend in this year.

Columbus. This town was founded by the Columbus Town Company, which had sent Fred Gottschalk, Jacob Lewis and George Rausch out from Omaha as advance agents in April to locate a site. On April 27, 1856, Isaac Albertson and E. W. Toneray located on Shell Creek, and attempted to found a town named "Buchanan" in the part of Platte County that became Colfax County later. Columbus was outlined and started on May 29, 1856. As remarked before, Albertson and Toneray, with General Estabrook and Col. Loran Miller attempted this year to start Buchanan, some four miles east of present Schuyler. As has been remarked, though in the realm of national politics Buchanan, as a presidential candidate, defeated Fremont in 1856, as a town, Fremont most certainly permanently eclipsed Buchanan, for today, the Fremont established in 1856 by contract with Pinney, Barnard & Co., is one of the important cities of Nebraska and Buchanan is as forgotten as the President for whom it was named.

Columbus was carried on in its upbuilding by a consolidation of the Pawnee City Company, the Columbus Town Company and a bridge company. It was incorporated as a town in 1865, and became a city of the first class in 1873, and in 1920 has reached a population of approximately six thousand.

Fremont is an important railroad and industrial center. In 1860 it became the seat of justice for Dodge County, and was incorporated as a city of second class in 1871. It is the outlet or market place for products of the rich valleys of the Platte for a long stretch and of the Elkhorn. Its first church, the Congregational, was organized in 1857, and it had a school in 1858. The 1920 census shows it to be a city of almost ten thousand population.

1857. This year saw Tecumseh, located in Johnson County, another move in the trend of settlement away from the river counties. Falls City and Rulo were laid out in Richardson County. Two more communities were established in this

year that were destined to take front rank among the cities of Nebraska, Beatrice and Grand Island.

Beatrice, the county seat of Gage County, is pleasantly situated on the Blue River, about fifty miles south of Lincoln. It was founded by a colony of emigrants in 1857 and named in honor of the daughter of Judge Kinney, a member. It was made the county seat upon the organization of the county and still holds that honor. Since the arrival of the first railroad, the Omaha & Southwestern, in 1871, numerous other lines have built in and it has become an important railroad center as well as industrial city, made especially famous by the Dempster Mills. The first church organized was the Methodist in 1857 or 1858, and a school was built by 1862. Blue Springs was another town started in Gage County this same year.

Grand Island. On July 4, 1857, a colony of thirty-five hardy pioneers arrived in what is now Hall County. Sent out by A. H. Barrows of a Davenport, Iowa, banking firm, upon well defined terms of financing and duties of cultivation and production, this courageous band passed by the infant settlements at Omaha, Fremont and Columbus and ventured out into the fathomless prairies of Central Nebraska, where there were then no settlements of white men, except clustered at Fort Kearney, to the southwest of where they stopped. They came to the "Great Island" referred to by Fremont, in the Platte River, and some two miles and a half below the present city of Grand Island, located a settlement. They built the O. K. Store and a few other establishments, but little in the way of a town was accomplished until the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866 and establishment of a division point upon the site of the present Grand Island, when the name was transferred to the new site, the community mainly moved over and the present city began. It has grown until it has reached a safe place in the 1920 census as Third City of Nebraska, showing a population of around fourteen thousand. Not only possessing the largest shops of the Union Pacific in Nebraska, outside of Omaha, this community has achieved a considerable industrial reputation as being the site of the first beet sugar factory in America; the second largest horse and mule market in the United States and a recent local survey showed some three hundred articles manufactured in this city. A land office was located here in 1869, the town incorporated in 1873, and schools and churches were started right after the establishment in 1866.

1858. In the southeastern part of the state, St. Deroin was resurveyed, this also being the year in which the founder, Deroin, was killed by a man named Bedlow in a quarrel. Bedlow was acquitted upon trial. Falls City was incorporated. Table Rock, which had been surveyed in 1855, was incorporated and its rival in Pawnee County, Pawnee City, was projected, but the latter was not really organized until 1871. To the northeast, St. Helena sprang up in Cedar County and Oakland to the south of there, in Burt County.

But the main marks of progress in this year was the extension of settlement to the west along the Platte. A station was established at Lone Tree station in Merrick County by the Western Stage Co. This was the beginning of the present town of Central City, though that town began its real existence about 1875. In Hall County, Mormon settlers located in the west end of the county, at a point that started the settlement of Wood River some ten years later. In eastern Buffalo County, the community of Wood River Center was settled by the Mormons, and a

town started that later developed into the present Shelton, a change of name being necessary after the town of Wood River started a few miles to the east in Hall County.

1860. A settlement was made at Genoa, which later became the location of an Indian school and a town of some repute. The location of a ferry across the Loup at this point hastened the location of a community in this vicinity. Franklin, which later became Jackson, was located near Dakota City.

In the next few years but little was accomplished in the direction of new settlements.

1863 saw the establishment of Fort McPherson in Lincoln County, and Elder J. M. Young settled at Lancaster, which sprang up and retained that name until the establishment of Lincoln, the new state capital, some four years later. In 1864, a postoffice was established at Milford, in Seward County, and in 1866 a mill was started there, on the Blue River. After the Civil war was over and the Indian scares of 1862 to 1865 had subsided, new settlements began to appear.

1866. The extension of the Union Pacific built up the Lone Tree station in Merrick County; moved the settlement of Grand Island over to the present site; and brought about the establishment of Kearney Station, which later became Buda, it being some five years later before Kearney Junction, the present city of Kearney reached the postoffice stage. The most important step forward of this year was probably the location and establishment of *North Platte*. This place is located approximately three hundred miles west of Omaha. Upon its establishment in 1866, a postoffice was located, and a newspaper, *The Pioneer on Wheels*, started. In 1867 it became the county seat of Lincoln County, and the same year the Union Pacific began the erection of machine shops there. For some thirty years it enjoyed a steady growth and in 1910 showed a population of 1,792. But in the past decade, with the rapid and wonderful development of the North Platte Valley in the western end of the state, it has become the industrial center of that vast new empire of irrigation, sugar beets and general production and forged ahead to a population of past ten thousand, and is now the fifth city in the state.

1867. As this year saw the completion of the Union Pacific railroad to practically the western border of the state, another division point west of North Platte, and still in Nebraska, became necessary, so the town of Sidney was started, at the location of a military garrison of that vicinity. This town became the point where travelers left the Overland highways to go north to the Black Hills, and when gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1876, became a very important, as well as notorious, place. It was here that the wild life of the frontier probably appeared more markedly and more true to "dime novel" and "western film" portrayals than any other place in Nebraska.

In this same year, 1867, the location was selected for the new state capitol, and the City of Lincoln given birth. By coincidence, in the same year, a small town was laid out in Washington County, named Kennard, in honor of one of the three commissioners who chose the site of Lincoln, Thomas P. Kennard. By further coincidence, in the recent weeks of the summer of 1920, occurred the deaths of Mr. Kennard, one of the founders of Lincoln, and Dr. George L. Miller, one of the original builders of Omaha, both hovering around the ripe age of ninety years.

1868 marked no organized advance of settlement. In this year, Ulysses in

Butler County. Wood River in Hall County and North Auburn in Nemaha County, received a start.

1869. This year saw some advance in addition of permanent communities to the state's roster. Hebron, county seat of Thayer County, was platted, Weeping Water, Cass County, which had been settled since 1855 took form, Arlington was laid out in Washington County, Papillion, county seat of Sarpy County, had its first house built, and five other towns, four of which were destined to become county seats and two of which are among the dozen most important towns of the state, were started in this year.

Schuyler, in Colfax County. The railroad station and section house had been built shortly before, but in 1869 L. C. Smith and brother opened the first store, and the town was platted on April 6, 1869, by H. M. Hoxie and Webster Snyder, officials of the Union Pacific Railroad. It has grown to be a good town of population in the neighborhood of two thousand five hundred, and especially noted for having one of the largest flour mills in the West, the Wells-Abbott-Nieman mills, manufacturers of Puritan and other brands of flour, sold all over the United States.

Wahoo grew from settlements made in this year by J. M. and J. R. Lee, and in the following year a company composed of these two men and Wm. B. Lee, H. Dorsey, E. H. Barnard, J. J. Hawthorn and Mr. Miner surveyed the town and subsequently became proprietors of the village. This town was destined later to capture the county seat honors of Saunders County from Ashland, and also to become an important trading center of the territory between Lincoln and Fremont.

Blair, the permanent seat of justice of Washington County, was located in this year. It is situated twenty-five miles north of Omaha, on a beautiful plateau about two and a half miles west of the Missouri River, and became the crossing of the C., St. P., M. & O. lines to Sioux City, and the main lines of the Northwestern system from Iowa to Fremont and on to the Black Hills. This plateau had been settled in 1855 by three brothers, Jacob, Alexander and T. M. Carter. The town was founded in 1869 and became a city of second class in 1872. It has developed into an important industrial center, with a canning factory, horse collar factory, Danish Publishing House, seat of Dana College, Danish Educational Institution for the nation, and an important trading center despite its close proximity to Omaha and Fremont.

Fairbury, the permanent county seat of Jefferson County, was laid out in 1869 by Messrs. McDowell and Mattingly, though its real period of growth commenced in 1872 with the arrival of the St. Joe & Denver, now the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad. Its name, Fairbury, Mr. McDowell chose from that of his former residence, Fairbury, Ill. Close to the Otoe reservation and in a commanding position as the junction of the St. Joe and Grand Island and Rock Island lines over an extensive, fertile territory, it has built up to a status as one of the best smaller cities in the state.

Norfolk, in Madison County, was laid out in this year, by Colonel Matthewson, who completed the Norfolk mills in 1870. He also built the first store in this town in 1869, and the first frame house, which stood at present corner of Main and First streets. This pioneer founder died in 1880. But the town he started kept on growing until it has reached a place among the ten largest towns in the state, and from its strategic location is destined to make very rapid growth in the future. An important railroad division point on the Northwestern system and junction.

point of different lines, it is also becoming one of the very important industrial and wholesale centers of the state.

1870. This year saw a rapid development in the territory between Lincoln and Grand Island. *Seward*, developing from a settlement made two years before, was incorporated. *York* grew out of the development from a pre-emption claim taken in 1869 for the South Platte Land Co., and was surveyed and platted in October, 1869, with the first store built in the following year. *Crete* was projected in this year by J. C. Bickle, and a rival town, *Blue River City*, started, but vanquished later by *Crete*. *Orville*, which became the first county seat of Hamilton County, started in this year. *Dorchester* also sprang up in Saline County; *Sterling*, down in Thayer County, and *Inland*, to the southwest, in the west edge of Clay County, was projected. A town was started three miles from the present site of *Osceola*, which became *Osceola* in 1871. Further west, the settlements in the Republican Valley opened in this year, with *Red Cloud* and *Guide Rock* projected in this year. In the older territory, town of *Pierce* started.

1871-1872. These two years witnessed a startling array of new settlements in the state, and a survey of the geographical trend is almost as enlightening as the roster of the new towns. In the well established eastern and northeastern part of the state, towns added to the list in these two years were: *Madison*, which became the county seat of Madison County; *Syracuse* and *Unadilla* in Otoe County; *Wisner* was platted, in Cuming County, and *Lyons* started; *Scribner* and *Hooper* in Dodge County appeared; *Homer* in Dakota County and *Creighton* in Knox County started in 1872; as did *Oakdale* in Antelope County.

Moving westward, in these years numerous settlements were projected in Lancaster County, at *Bennett* and *Waverly*; in its neighboring counties to the west, Saline produced *Wilber*, its eventual county seat; *DeWitt* and *Friend* in 1872. The latter started when the railroad came through in 1871, but got its real impetus in 1873, and Thayer County bristled out with *Alexandria* in 1871, and *Davenport*, *Carleton* and *Belvidere* in 1872. Clay County began its town growth in earnest, with *Harvard* and *Sutton* in 1871 and *Fairfield* in 1872, and *Edgar* was surveyed in 1872. Fillmore produced *Geneva*, *Fairmont* and *Exeter* in 1871 as well as *Grafton*, which indulged in a most picturesque railroad and trade war with *Sutton*, when the railroad attempted to pass up *Sutton* and locate the depot and shipping facilities at *Grafton*. Unlike many of these scraps, in this instance both towns survived and became good trading centers.

Adams County showed unusual development. A small settlement in vicinity of *Hastings*, headed by the filing of *Walter Micklen* upon the future townsite started the venture. The *Hastings Townsite Company* organized by *Walter Micklen*, *W. L. Smith*, *T. E. Farrell*, *W. B. Slosson*, *Samuel Slosson* and *J. D. Carl*, laid *Micklen's* land out into town lots and projected the future city. *Samuel Alexander* came from Lincoln in 1872 and erected the first store, before the arrival of the railroad, and when the goods had to be hauled from *Inland*, a town then the terminus of the *Burlington*, six miles east of *Hastings*. The postoffice was established that fall, with *Alexander* as postmaster. The new town had a rapid growth, in 1877 became the county seat. In April, 1874, it was incorporated. It has grown and developed, as a wonderful railroad center, with seven railroad lines radiating in every direction, and such commercial, industrial and manufacturing attainments that it holds a place as the fourth largest city in the state according to

the 1920 census. In 1871-2, Adams County also produced Juniata and Kenesaw. Continuing west to Kearney County, Lowell was started in 1872. To the northwest, along the Union Pacific line and Platte River territory, *Kearney Junction* now city of *Kearney* and Plum Creek, which was later changed to name of Lexington, were started in 1871.

Kearney was started from Kearney Junction postoffice in 1871; the town surveyed in 1872, and both the Union Pacific and Burlington railroads were then completed to this new town. By the spring of 1873 it had some twenty buildings and was incorporated as a town in April, 1874. Its first church was the Methodist Episcopal, organized as early as 1871 by Presiding Elder A. G. White and Rev. A. Collins, at the residence of the latter. Its first school was taught in 1872 by Miss Fanny Nevins. This city has grown in commercial and industrial importance until it has approximately seven thousand residents, and is one of the most beautiful cities in the state. It is a great center of schools and public institutions.

Plum Creek, or Lexington, the county seat of Dawson County, has developed into a very important town of its class. Lowell, mentioned a short space back, played a very important part in early days of central Nebraska, but has fallen back to about one hundred inhabitants. Gibbon in Buffalo county started in 1872, and has become a very enterprising small town, with very nearly a thousand population. The settlements in Franklin, Harlan and Furnas counties, first made here and there in 1870, were also concentrating into the development of towns in this period of 1871-2. Bloomington, in Franklin County; Alma, in Harlan County, and Beaver City, in Furnas County, all destined to win the county seatship in their respective counties blossomed forth in 1872. In Franklin County, Bloomington was not alone, but had as early rivals, started at the same time, Franklin City, which became Waterloo, and eventually Franklin displaced it; Riverton and Naponee. Arapahoe was started, and well rivaled Beaver City, in Furnas County. Orleans, Melrose and Republican City started to contest with Alma, in Harlan County.

In the central part of the state and looking farther north, in 1872, *Aurora* was laid out in Hamilton County, destined to take the county seat away from Orville, and become the metropolis of its vicinity, and a town of some three thousand inhabitants. At this time, the great, fertile Loup Valley, north of Aurora and Grand Island began to open up. Following the first settlements in 1871, the town of *St. Paul* was founded by the Paul brothers in 1872, and another town, Dannebrog also started in Howard County that year, and to the north, *North Loup*, in Valley County, was projected. This growth carried the settlements well into the center of the state, along the Republican, Platte and Loup valleys.

Also in this period, in the older parts of the state, among other towns started in 1871-2 were Stromsburg, in Polk County; Plainview, in Pierce County; *Albion*, the permanent county seat of Boone County, and St. Edward, in the same county; Stanton, in the county that bears the same name; and Palmyra in Otoe County.

1873 saw a few towns here and there started, in localities which gradually extended the settled area. Neligh, in Antelope County started at this time. *Ord* was located in this year and laid out in 1874 by Haskell Brothers and Babcock. This town, the metropolis of Valley County and the junction of the Union Pacific and Burlington branches into the Loup Valley has become an important trading center. Ord and North Loup bear the reputation of being the shipping points for

the second greatest popcorn shipping community in the United States, and an annual popcorn festival is held in recent years at North Loup. Nelson, eventually the county seat of Nuckolls County, was laid out in 1873, some two years before its rival Superior, which became the larger town in the county and an important railroad center. David City, the county seat of Butler, was laid out then, and incorporated in 1874; Loup City, the metropolis and county seat of Sherman County, began building up in 1873. In Dawson County, two more towns started, Cozad, which was at one time called "Hundredth Meridian" due to its location near that line, and Overton, which is in the eastern part of the county.

1874-77. Scotia, in Greeley County, and located between St. Paul and North Loup, but only four miles south of the latter, started in 1874. It was the first town and first county seat of Greeley County. O'Neill started in 1875, and Atkinson, in 1876 and another little town in Holt County, Paddock, later Troy, started about this time. Keya Paha was settled in 1877, thus indicating that before 1880 the settlements were reaching up the Northwestern Railroad Elkhorn Valley line pretty rapidly.

In Kearney County, Minden started in 1876 and Newark in 1877. In Greeley, a settlement was made at O'Connor in 1877. Utica, in Seward County started about this time.

1877-1880. In 1878, Blue Hill and Cowles started in Webster County; 1879 saw the foundation of Cedar Rapids, in Boone County; Clay Center, in Clay County; Oxford, in Furnas County; and Bradshaw in York County.

1881-2. Bancroft started in Burt County; Fullerton, in Nance County; Pilger, in Stanton County; Chester and Hubbell in Thayer County, and out at the very southwest corner of the state, Collinsville, later called Benkleman began.

The more important towns projected in 1882, were Wakefield, in Dixon County; Wayne, county seat of that county; Wymore, in Gage County, and Spalding, in eastern Greeley County, and *McCook*, future county seat of Red Willow, an important division point on the Burlington and trading center of some importance in the Republican Valley in recent years.

This survey reaching to 1883, brings us to a point where towns had been started in almost every county in the state, outside of the vast, rather unorganized region then embraced in Cheyenne and Sioux counties, and later distributed into twenty-three counties instead of two. It was about this time that the towns of Custer County were started. Westerville, in 1886, being the first important town; Broken Bow, having been first located in 1882 and well eclipsed its first rival in the latter years. As the Burlington Railroad built its line toward Billings in 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887, towns sprang up along that line; Ravenna, in Buffalo County; Ansley, Mason, Merna, Anselmo in Custer County; Dunning, in Blaine, Thedford, Seneca in Thomas County; Mullen, in Hooker County; Hyannis, Whitman and Ashby in Grant County, and on toward Alliance, in Box Butte County, and many stations which have remained smaller than those mentioned.

Thus, Nebraska has developed into a state with only two large cities, of over 50,000 population, Omaha and Lincoln, a dozen smaller cities ranging from 7,000 to 15,000, and a myriad of towns in the 2,000 to 5,000 class, good trading centers for fertile, prosperous territories, and hundreds of smaller towns, yet carrying on extensive business interests. A truly agricultural state, it is upon these myriads of small towns, and not altogether upon great cities, that Nebraska

bases its wonderful record of achievement in agricultural, educational, religious, social and civic performances, that serve to make it one of the banner states of the Union. With well maintained churches, well endowed schools, well patronized newspapers, active and up-to-date business houses, well supported and clean moving picture theaters, it is through such a myriad of small towns that Nebraska can mould a citizenship that takes a low percentage record of illiteracy, a high percentage record in keen alert citizenship, and a most vigorous forward record in progressive legislation and forward government.

CHAPTER V

DEVELOPMENT OF NEBRASKA—BY COUNTIES

ORDER OF ORGANIZATION—EIGHT ORIGINAL COUNTIES—CHANGES BY FIRST LEGISLATURE—ACT OF JANUARY 26, 1856—ORGANIZATION, YEAR BY YEAR—INLAND COUNTIES—THE COUNTIES OF NEBRASKA INDIVIDUALLY—POPULATION OF COUNTIES—SHORT SKETCH OF FIRST SETTLEMENTS, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EACH COUNTY (ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)—ORIGIN OF NEBRASKA NAMES—COUNTY NAMES.

“Many things impossible in thought
Have been by need to full perfection brought.”

—Dryden.

It is one of the peculiarities of our American governmental scheme that has made this republic what it is—that we bring the Government so close to the people. Each citizen takes a deep interest and pride in the history, achievements and government of our Nation—but things “National” are a long ways off. We take a very close pride in our state, and the general history of the State of Nebraska, as a whole, is interesting. But it needs not words to describe even how much closer is the particular county in which one lives. It is this bringing the government, in smaller units and functions, close to us, that distinguishes the United States from many other nations. It needs no words to describe that feeling of even closer proprietorship and individual pride one feels in the local city hall and courthouse buildings than he does in even a more majestic appearing Federal postoffice building. Perhaps, for one thing, because he doesn't have to divide his ownership, as a citizen, with one hundred millions of others.

So in this volume, many things that might have been included in the treatment of the state governmental functions have been omitted to make way for the following brief, synoptical analysis of the origin, organization and stage of development reached by each individual county in the state.

ORDER OF ORGANIZATION

Just as in the subject of their settlement, a short statistical review of the rotation in which the various counties perfected their governmental organization cannot but prove invaluable as well as interesting.

EIGHT ORIGINAL COUNTIES

When the Territorial Government assumed the reins of government in 1854, Nebraska was then divided into what have been called, “The Eight Original Counties.” These were clustered along the Missouri River, and starting at the

south end, were:—Richardson; Forney (later changed to name of Nemaha), Pierce (later called Otoe), Cass, Douglas, Washington, Burt, and Dodge, the one of the group that lay back away from the Missouri River.

In 1855, counties of Dakota and Cuming were organized; and in 1856, Pawnee and Johnson were organized. These four were virtually pioneer counties in the territorial government.

CHANGES BY FIRST LEGISLATURE

The original division according to eight counties above mentioned, was materially changed by the first legislature. The subdivision of so vast a domain as Nebraska was no slight task. Not only was it necessary to observe the wishes of the petitioners, accede to various requests as to locations, dislike and likes for certain names, conform to natural boundaries and divisions made by rivers, railroads and other natural factors in such determinations, but look to the future of a fast-growing territory. It will be observed in comparing the following table, with that showing the rotation of settlement of the respective counties, appearing in another chapter, or with the short synoptical analysis of each county appearing in the latter part of this chapter, that many counties were provided for, established as to boundaries, and named, by the early legislatures that did not materialize in latter years. Others, remained but a short time under the name first given, or the boundaries first established. Still others, had a portion of their original territory cut off and made into new counties. It is to keep these changes in mind, in a short, concise and comprehensible form, that the following table is intended.

On February 18, 1855, the Legislature re-enacted the boundaries of Burt County; on February 22d, those of Washington; on March 6th, those of Dodge; on March 2d, it had fixed those of Douglas and Otoe; on March 7th, those of Cass, Nemaha and Richardson. Thus the names of Forney and Pierce were dropped; the other six original" counties re-established. In addition to Dakota, Cuming, Pawnee and Johnson, heretofore mentioned as having been very shortly organized, twelve other counties were established by this Act. Of these twelve, the following eventually were organized in somewhere approximately the boundaries fixed in this Act:—Loup, which territory was later organized as Platte and Colfax, but the county seat named therein, Pawnee, never materialized. Greene, named for a Missouri senator, whose course in the Civil war displeased Nebraskans and after organization the county's name was changed to Seward; Lancaster, Gage, and Clay, all later organized, upon a basis of twenty-four miles square, and county seats to be named for Lancaster and Gage, but that of Clay to be "Clatonia." After Clay was organized the only effort toward building up a town in its borders was that of projected town of Austin. In 1864, a bill was drawn that attached the north half of Clay County to Lancaster and the south half to Gage, which accounts for these two counties being of the combined length of seventy-two miles. Jackson, apparently to be the western part of present Otoe County, never materialized as a county; neither did McNeale, of which Manitou was to have been the county seat, nor Izard, with Hunton as county seat. The territory embraced in the description of these two counties later became Stanton and Wayne counties. Saline County, York County and Buffalo County, as yet unsettled when this act was passed, later materialized into counties, although Buffalo County possessed vastly different

borders when it finally came into the family of counties; and its proposed county seat of Nebraska Center never materialized; Blackbird County, for many years, for election, judicial and revenue purposes was apportioned between Burt, Cuming and Dakota counties; became the Omaha reservation territory, and eventually, in recent years, became Thurston County. The county seats named for the first twelve counties did not all retain that honor; notably, Fort Calhoun in Washington; Fontanelle in Dodge; Pawnee Village in Pawnee; Catherine in Cuming; Archer in Richardson; Brownville in Nemaha and Blackbird City in Blackbird.

ACT OF JANUARY 26, 1856

This Act approved the boundaries of nineteen counties; repeating among the counties named in Act of 1855, York, Saline, Izard, Gage, Lancaster, Clay and Greene. This Act added the status of establishment to the following counties which were eventually organized; Jefferson, Fillmore, Polk, Monroe, which eventually became the west part of Platte, Madison, Pierce, Jones, which was originally Jefferson County as now constituted; Butler, Platte, Dixon and Calhoun, which eventually became known as Saunders.

Up until the end of this year, only the twelve counties first named above had been formally organized.

1857. In this year, the Legislature established three counties, naming boundaries for Cedar, L'Eau-qui-Court and Cuming. Cuming was already organized; and in this year the following counties perfected organization:—

L'Eau-qui-Court, which retained that name until 1867, when it was changed to "Emmett" and in 1873 to its present name, Knox. Cedar; Sarpy, which although the first county in the state to be settled, had remained a part of Douglas until this time, notwithstanding that at one time provision had been made to establish it as Omaha County. Gage and Platte were organized in this year.

1858. Legislative act provided for establishment or changes in boundaries of following counties; Nemaha, re-defined; Dixon, re-defined; Calhoun, Merick, later spelled Merrick; Hall, and the three were organized in that year—Dixon, Merrick and Hall.

1859. Lancaster and Kearney counties, organized.

1860. Legislative provisions made for organization of following counties; Wilson, Morton, Shorter, Kearney, really organized the year before, and Dawson. It was six years before Shorter, which was eventually known as Lincoln County, and eleven years before Dawson County organized, and there are no records to show that Wilson or Morton ever organized and exercised any functions as counties. These two counties were to have been out in the North Platte River—Sweet Water River region. In addition to re-defining boundaries of several present counties, provision was made for West and Nuckolls counties. Nuckolls organized some eleven years later, West County, proposed up along the Keya Paha River, never materialized and its establishment was set aside in 1862.

1862. Saline County organized.

1864. Buffalo County was organized. Jefferson County organized. The present Jefferson County was originally Jones County, and when it changed its name retained the name Jefferson in order to retain the county records, and its neighbor,

Thayer County, which was separated from it, and had originally had name Jefferson, hunted a new name.

1865. Seward County was organized. As noted heretofore, it dropped its original name, Greene County, and adopted that of the national secretary of state.

1866. Saunders County, first known as Calhoun, organized as did Lincoln and Stanton counties.

1867. The Legislature in this year provided for the establishment of several counties, of which present Clay and Hamilton were already slightly settled, and Webster, Adams, and Franklin were not settled until some three years later.

1868. Butler and Madison counties organized.

1869. Colfax County organized.

1870. This year witnessed the organization of Pierce and Wayne in the north-east part of state, York, Polk and Hamilton in central part and Cheyenne in far western part.

1871. This year witnessed the organization of twelve counties, eight of which are adjacent to each other, five in the southern tier of the state and three in the next tier to the north, being Fillmore, Clay and Adams in the latter tier; and running east to west on southern tier, being, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin and Harlan. Antelope and Dawson heretofore provided for were organized, and Boone and Howard in the north central part were forerunners of another group organized about this time.

1872. In this year, Greeley, in the Loup Valley, and Frontier, to the west organized.

1873. This year saw the establishment by the Legislature of a number of counties, of which Phelps, Furnas, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Keith, Valley and Sherman then organized. Authorization that was later acted upon was given for the organization of Gosper, which eventually came off from Phelps; Dundy, in the southwest corner of the state; Chase, the next county north of Dundy.

1876-1877. The next manifestation of activity in the formation of counties was that of Holt in 1876, and Custer by Act of 1877, and Hayes was established by Act of 1877, as was Wheeler County. After the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, necessity coupled with the desire of prospective settlers and goldseekers drove the Ogallala and Brule Sioux from their reservations in the part of the state, then called the Unorganized Country, and Sioux County shortly after emerged as a unit of vast territory that later became some sixteen separate counties.

1879. Nance County organized.

1881. Wheeler County was actually organized on April 11th.

1883. This year saw the organization of three counties: Loup, Brown and Cherry.

1884. Keya Paha County was taken off from Brown County. Garfield County was formed from the western end of Wheeler County, and Sioux County was reduced to almost its present proportion when in

1885 Dawes and Sheridan were formed. Logan County down in the sandhills took shape about this time.

1886. Blaine County temporarily organized. The Burlington Railroad line to Wyoming and Montana building through this district, caused the formation of numerous counties through the Burlington Sandhills. Box Butte took form in this year also.

1887. Thomas County was established from the territory between Blaine and Box Butte counties; and a year later, Grant County took form, and in another year, Hooker County, completing the quartette of counties that border to the south on their vast neighbor, Cherry County, and through which the Burlington line runs. In 1887, two changes took place to the south, when McPherson was provided for; and Perkins County was taken off from Keith County.

1888. This year saw the formation of Rock County, between Brown and Holt counties, and from big Cheyenne, four counties were taken by an election of November 6, 1888; being Deuel, Kimball, Banner and Scotts Bluff.

1889. In addition to formation of Hooker County, in this year, the Indian reservation territory of old Blackbird County, on the Missouri River, was formed into Thurston County.

1891. Boyd County was taken off the north end of Holt County.

1908-1910-1913. In the last twelve years, the three youngest counties in Nebraska have been formulated. Morrill County was taken from new Cheyenne County in 1908, and two years later, Garden County was taken from Deuel County, and in 1913, Arthur County, long before provided for, and for years attached to McPherson County, was formed and organized from the western part of McPherson County.

INLAND COUNTIES

Railroad construction in Nebraska in the past two decades has been very light, and Nebraska in 1920 still has five inland counties, in whose borders no railroad track traverses, and to which a trip by team, conveyance, automobile, other vehicle or aeroplane is the only means of entrance. These are Keya Paha, Loup, McPherson, Arthur, Banner. Several other counties, with railroad facilities at other towns in the county have inland county seats, without railroad facilities. These are, Hayes County, Hayes Center; Frontier County, Stockville; Logan County, Gandy, over a mile from the railroad, but with a station; Blaine County, Brewster, eighteen miles from Dunning; Wheeler County, where Bartlett is usually reached from either Ericson in that county, or Spalding, in Greeley County; Boyd County, Butte; and Knox County, Center.

While it has been seven years since any new counties have been formed in Nebraska, there is no immediate likelihood of a ninety-fourth county coming very soon. The counties south of Cherry County strongly advocate the secession of a couple tiers of townships on the south from that vast county and their annexation to Grant, Hooker and Thomas, but this, if it came about, would probably form no new counties. Division of Sheridan County is strongly advocated at times, and would be the most likely ninety-fourth county move. Division of the vast county of Custer has withstood defeat in several elections, and with the development of good roads and general use of automobiles never seemed further of accomplishment than it does right now in 1920. County seat changes are desired in many counties by towns which would like to win this prize from its present possessor. But none have been made in very recent years, except in Franklin County in 1920.

THE COUNTIES OF NEBRASKA INDIVIDUALLY

A very long narrative could be woven, and most interestingly at that, concerning each one of the counties of the state. But to do this in one volume would make

altogether too long a work. When this was attempted, and pretty thoroughly at that, some thirty-eight years ago, by the compilers of Andreas' History of Nebraska, 1882, it made a book of over 1,500 pages, and a great deal of that in very fine print. Then there were only sixty-eight counties fully treated and four or five others slightly treated, and forty years elapsed since on each one, would make necessary a set of more than one volume. So in this work, only the county assigned will be treated in full, and a very short synopsis of the facts or origin, organization and development included for each of the other counties.

POPULATION OF COUNTIES

The quickest and most comprehensive barometer of the growth of the "county" subdivisions of the state, is naturally reflected in the table of populations of the various counties, given here for each ten year period from 1860 to 1920, inclusive.

The 1920 census shows that in Nebraska, in common with many other central states of the Union, and especially those states outside of the manufacturing districts and depending more essentially upon agriculture, many counties show a slight decline since 1910. On the other hand, the towns and cities show a substantially uniform rate of increase. There are fewer farms in 1920 and fewer people living in the rural districts, and it will be noted that most of the counties showing a substantial increase between 1910 and 1920, are those counties with numerous or important towns and cities.

POPULATION OF NEBRASKA BY COUNTIES

	Population, 1856-1920							
	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1856
The State	1,295,502	1,192,214	1,066,300	1,058,910	452,402	122,993	28,841	.....
Counties								
Adams.....	22,621	20,900	18,840	24,303	10,235	19	.....	.....
Antelope	15,243	14,003	11,344	10,399	3,953	.....	.....	.....
Arthur	1,412	.....	.....	91	.....	.....	.....	.....
Banner	1,435	1,444	1,114	2,435	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blaine	1,778	1,672	603	1,146	.....	.....	.....	.....
Boone	14,146	13,145	11,689	8,683	4,170	.....	.....	.....
Box Butte	6,407	6,131	5,572	5,494	.....	.....	.....	.....
Boyd	8,243	8,826	7,332	695	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brown	6,749	6,083	3,470	4,359	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buffalo	23,787	21,907	20,254	22,162	7,531	193	114	.....
Burt	12,559	12,726	13,040	11,069	6,937	2,847	388	146
Butler	13,723	15,403	15,703	15,454	9,154	1,290	27	.....
Cass	18,029	19,786	21,330	24,080	16,683	8,151	3,369	1,251
Cedar	16,225	15,191	12,467	7,028	2,899	1,032	246	.....
Chase	4,939	3,613	2,559	4,807	70	.....	.....	.....
Cherry	11,753	10,414	6,541	6,428	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cheyenne	8,405	4,551	5,570	5,693	1,558	190	.....	.....
Clay	14,486	15,729	15,735	16,310	11,294	54	165	.....
Colfax	11,624	11,610	11,211	10,453	6,588	1,424	.....	8
Cuming	13,769	13,782	14,584	12,265	5,569	2,961	67	.....
Custer	26,407	25,668	19,758	21,677	2,211	.....	.....	646
Dakota	7,694	6,564	6,286	5,386	3,213	2,040	819	.....
Dawes	10,160	5,254	6,215	9,722	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dawson	16,004	15,961	12,214	10,129	2,909	103	16	.....
Deuel	3,282	1,786	2,680	2,893	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dixon	11,815	11,477	10,535	8,084	4,177	1,345	247	.....
Dodge	23,197	22,145	22,298	19,260	11,263	4,212	309	313
Douglas	204,524	168,546	140,590	158,008	37,645	19,982	4,328	3,465
Dundy	4,869	4,098	2,434	4,012	37	.....	.....	.....
Fillmore	13,671	14,674	15,087	16,022	10,204	238	.....	.....
Franklin	10,067	10,303	9,455	7,693	5,465	26	.....	.....
Frontier	8,540	8,572	8,781	8,497	934	.....	.....	.....
Furnas	11,657	12,083	12,373	9,840	6,407	.....	.....	.....
Gage	29,721	30,525	30,051	36,344	13,164	3,359	421	.....
Garden	4,572	3,538	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garfield	3,496	3,417	2,127	1,659	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gosper	4,669	4,933	5,301	4,816	1,673	.....	.....	.....
Grant	1,486	1,097	763	458	.....	.....	.....	.....
Greeley	8,685	8,047	5,691	4,869	1,461	.....	.....	.....
Hall	23,733	20,261	17,206	16,513	8,572	1,057	116	.....

Counties	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1856
Hamilton	13,237	13,459	13,330	14,096	8,267	130		
Harlan	9,220	9,570	9,370	8,158	6,086			
Hayes	3,327	3,011	2,708	3,953	119			
Hitchcock	6,045	5,415	4,409	5,799	1,012			
Holt	17,151	15,545	12,224	13,672	3,287			
Hooker	1,378	981	432	426				
Howard	10,739	10,783	10,343	9,430	4,391			
Jefferson	16,140	16,852	15,196	14,850	8,096	2,440		
Johnson	6,940	10,187	11,197	10,333	7,595	3,429	528	
Kearney	8,583	9,106	9,866	9,061	4,072	58	472	
Keith	5,294	3,692	1,951	2,556	194			
Keya Paha	3,594	3,452	3,076	3,920				
Kimball	4,498	1,942	758	959				
Knox	18,894	18,358	14,343	8,582	3,606	261	152	
Lancaster	85,902	73,703	64,835	76,395	28,090	7,074	153	125
Lincoln	23,420	15,684	11,416	10,441	3,632	17*	117†	
Logan	1,596	1,521	960	1,378				
Loup	1,946	2,188	1,305	1,662				
McPherson	1,692	2,470	517	401				
Madison	22,511	19,101	16,976	13,669	5,589	1,133	with Platte	
Merrick	10,763	10,379	9,255	8,758	5,341	557	109	
Morrill	9,151	4,584						
Nance	8,712	8,926	8,222	5,773	1,212	44		
Nemaha	12,547	13,095	14,952	12,930	10,451	7,593	3,139	1,281
Nuckolls	13,236	13,019	12,414	11,417	4,235	8	22	
Otoe	19,494	19,324	22,288	25,403	15,727	12,345	4,211	1,862
Pawnee	9,578	10,582	11,770	10,340				301
Perkins	3,967	2,570	1,702	4,364				
Phelps	9,900	10,451	10,772	9,869	2,447			
Pierce	10,681	10,122	8,445	4,864	1,202	152		
Platte	19,464	19,006	17,747	15,437	9,511	1,899	782	35
Polk	10,714	10,521	10,542	10,817	6,846	136	19	
Red Willow	11,434	11,056	9,604	8,837	3,044			
Richardson	18,968	17,488	19,614	17,574	15,031	9,780	2,835	532
Rock	3,703	3,627	2,809	3,083				
Saline	16,514	17,866	18,252	20,097	14,491	3,106	39	
Sarpy	9,370	9,274	9,080	6,875	4,481	2,913	1,201	
Saunders	20,589	21,145	22,085	21,577	15,810	4,547		
Scott's Bluff	20,710	8,355	2,552	1,888				
Seward	15,867	15,895	15,690	16,140	11,147	2,953		
Sheridan	9,625	7,328	6,033	8,687				
Sherman	8,877	8,275	6,550	6,399	2,061			
Sioux	4,528	5,599	2,055	2,452	699			
Stanton	7,756	7,542	6,959	4,619	1,813	636		
Thayer	13,976	14,775	14,325	12,738	6,113			
Thomas	1,773	1,191	628	517				
Thurston	9,589	8,704	6,517	3,176	109	31		
Valley	8,823	9,480	7,339	7,092	2,324			
Washington	12,180	12,738	13,086	11,869	8,631	4,452	1,249	751
Wayne	9,725	10,397	9,862	6,169	813	182		
Webster	10,922	12,008	11,619	11,210	7,104	16		
Wheeler	2,531	2,292	1,362	1,683	644			
York	17,146	18,721	18,205	17,279	11,170	604		

* Boundaries of Lincoln County changed about 1867.

† As Shorter County.

ADAMS COUNTY

Adams County lies about one hundred and twenty miles west of the Missouri River, and twenty-four miles from the south line of the state. It is bounded by the counties of Hall on the north, Clay on the east, Webster on the south, and Kearney on the west.

Mortimer N. Kress and Joe Fouts came into the county in 1869. On March 5, 1870, they located claims at a point near where the Little Blue enters Clay County. In 1871 it was declared a county by executive proclamation and the first elections held in that year. In April of 1871, a colony of Englishmen came in and settled near where Hastings is located, and upon Micklen's land Hastings was projected and the townsite laid out, in 1872. In 1871 the county had a voting population of twenty-nine. The line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad built across the county east and west in 1871-2. The St. Joseph & Denver built into the county also in 1872. The area of the county is 565 square miles. The growth of the county as evidenced by its population, has been: Census of 1870, 19; 1880, 10,235; 1885, 18,004; 1890, 24,303; 1900, 18,840; 1910, 20,900, and 1920, 22,621.

The first county seat was Juniata, but after some efforts Hastings secured this

prize in 1877. Besides its metropolis, Hastings, the fourth city in the state, the other towns of the county are, Juniata, which was started in 1871 and is a town of about five hundred inhabitants now; Ayr, which was laid out in 1878; Kenesaw, which was located in 1872, and is now a town of over seven hundred; Hansen, which was laid out in 1879; Pauline, Leroy, Brickton, Roseland, Holstein, and Prosser. As in every county, there were some forty years ago a number of postoffices, at inland points, which by the establishment of rural mail routes and concentration of trade into other towns, have been practically, if not entirely, wiped out or discontinued. Among these in Adams County were Millington, about three miles northeast of Ayr; Ludlow, about eleven miles northeast of Hastings; Hazel Dell, about eight miles south of Juniata; Mayflower, about seven miles south of Kenesaw; Kingston, about five miles east of Ayr; Morseville and Rosedale, in southwest corner of the county. With the prestige of Hastings, the queen city of the state, Adams County has always been a county to be reckoned with in Nebraska.

ANTELOPE COUNTY

This county is in the northeastern part of the state, in the fifth tier from the east and second from the northern edge. Its area is 872 square miles. It was settled on April 25, 1868, by "Ponca George" St. Clair, in the St. Clair Valley. The county was established in 1871, and received its name from an incident remembered by Hon. Leander Gerrard, when the year before a party he was with had killed and refreshed themselves upon the meat of some young antelope. The county seat then chosen was the present site of Oakdale. The county seat Neligh was chosen in the late '70s, after the first court house had burned. The county had Indian raids in 1870, but no serious depredations were suffered in this county. The principal early towns of the county were Oakdale, founded in 1872, Neligh, in 1873. The towns now flourishing in this county in 1920, are: Clearwater, started in 1872 as Antelope and name changed in 1880 to Clearwater; Orchard, established 1880; Elgin, a town of about seven hundred in southern part of county; Royal, established in 1880, Brunswick, and inland points, St. Clair, established as a postoffice in 1876 and named for the first settler in the county; Vim; Willowdale, where a postoffice was established in 1874; Jessup, named in honor of ex-Governor Jessup of Iowa, and Glenalpine, settled up in 1879. This county is traversed by the main line of the Northwestern system from Omaha to the Black Hills, and by the Sioux City-O'Neill branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

ARTHUR COUNTY

This is the youngest county in Nebraska, formally organized in 1913. Prior to the land drawings at North Platte and Broken Bow in 1912, when the major portion of the land in this county was thrown open to homestead settlement, this vicinity was a sparsely settled west end of McPherson County. Big ranches were built up in those days, and a considerable portion of the county is yet devoted to ranching. The county seat town, Arthur, is a small inland village. Other post-offices or trading points in the county are Zella, Melrose, Hillsdale, Cullman, Read and Rice, in the southern portion of the county; Edward, Flora, Collins, Willett, Lena, Carman and Calora, in the northern part. The county is reached by automo-

bile stage or private conveyances from Lewellen, Lemoyne or Keystone in Keith County, or Hyannis or Whitman in Grant County, and to Arthur town is about forty miles drive through sandhills either way.

BANNER COUNTY

This county is just north of Kimball, the southwestern county in the Nebraska Panhandle, and borders onto the State of Wyoming, to the west. It has an area of 742 square miles and a population of approximately 1,500 to 2,000. It is an inland county, reached from Union Pacific stations in Kimball County or towns in Scotts Bluff County. Its county seat, Harrisburg, is a small inland town. The early settlements were made in the county in the late '80s. The first invasion of the county by white men was for ranching purposes when it was used by a couple of large ranches before the farming population arrived. It was organized, upon its division from Cheyenne, in 1888. Postoffices or trading centers other than Harrisburg, are Gary, Flowerfield and Epworth, in the southwest part; Heath and Kirk, in southeastern part; Hull, in the northwestern, and Big Horn, in eastern part of county. The highway from Scotts Bluff to Kimball traverses the county north and south and is the main thoroughfare of travel. Banner County is a great wheat producing area.

BLAINE COUNTY

This county is located north of Custer County, and south of Brown County. It has an area of 711 square miles. This county has a population of between 1,700 and 2,000. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad line to the Black Hills, and Billings runs through this county with stations at Linscott, Dunning and at Halsey, which is on the Blaine-Thomas County line. Both the Middle Loup and North Loup rivers flow through this county. Brewster and Purdum are both inland towns. Brewster, the county seat, is situated in a most beautiful valley. Dunning, the largest town in the county is a very progressive business town, and has in 1920 the best hotel between Grand Island and Alliance, and numerous other modern, up-to-date brick business buildings. Blaine County, in early days, was the scene of much interesting cowboy history and many very profitable "hunting and fishing" episodes. A great deal of traffic is carried on between Brewster and Dunning by auto trucks in recent years.

BOONE COUNTY

This county is in the fifth tier west in the state and the third north of the Platte River. It has an area of 692 square miles. The first settlements made in the county were in 1871 by people chiefly from Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Minnesota, among the first party being S. D. Avery, Albert Dresser, N. G. Myers, W. H. Stout, W. H. Prescott, and other early settlers being S. P. Bollman, Harvey Manicle, L. H. Baldwin, Richard Evans, T. T. Wilkinson, Elias Atwood, Sr., and John Hammond. Albion, the county seat, was platted in October, 1872, by Loran Clark. The county was organized by act of Legislature, approved March 28, 1871. Towns on the Union Pacific branch to Albion are Boone, St. Edward and Boonville. On the Spalding branch of the Union Pacific, the towns are Cedar Rapids and Primrose. On the Chicago & Northwestern branch into Albion from the north,

are Petersburg and Loretta. St. Edward was laid out in 1871; and Cedar Rapids in 1879. Inland points in the county are Arden in the very Northwestern corner; Closter and Olmes in the eastern part; and Bradish is on the Northwestern branch into Albion from the east. With three branch lines running into the county, and two of them making junction at Albion, this little city has become an important trading center for a very extensive territory, and hardly any county fair in the state excels the annual exposition held at Albion, each September. Early towns in the county's history that have disappeared, or play no very important part any longer, were Waterville, Dayton, Dublin, Myra, Raville, Oxford, Roselma, Boone and Coon Prairie, some of which never had much more than a general store and school house.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Box Butte is in the northwestern part of the state, just east of Sioux County, the extreme corner northwestern county. It has an area of 1,076 square miles. It owes its existence to the gold discoveries in the Black Hills in 1876. Prior to then, it was a part of the Brule and Ogallala Sioux Indian reservation territory. But the "Old Sidney" trail to the Black Hills traversed this county, and the mighty rush of gold seekers and freighters verily drove the Indians back. On this noted trail, through Box Butte there were three important stopping places, Hart's ranch at the crossing of Snake Creek, Mayfield's and later the Hughes ranch, at the crossing of the Niobrara, and Halfway Hollow, on the high tableland between. After the Northwestern Railroad was extended to Deadwood, the trail dropped into disuse. Then came the great range herds of the Ogallala Cattle Company, Swan Brothers, Bosler Brothers, the Bay State, and other cow outfits. A unique elevation in the eastern part of the county, the cowboys named "Box Butte," and from that, the county received its name. Later, as the Burlington line built up through the sandhills, the rush of homesteaders came in. This county has a great reputation as a potato raising region and Hemingford is a great potato shipping point. Alliance, the county seat, has built up to a thriving city of approximately 5,000 inhabitants. Letan is on the Burlington branch to Sidney; and stations other than Alliance on the Burlington main line through the county are, Yale, Berea, Hemingford, Girard and Nye. Marple is an inland point.

BOYD COUNTY

Boyd is a narrow, long county of some five hundred thirty-five square miles in area cut off from the north end of Holt County. Lying between the Niobrara River and the South Dakota state line, it is entirely cut off from the mother county, Holt. With the Niobrara on the south, Ponca Creek running through the county, and the Missouri River along the northeast edge of the county, it is pretty well watered. The Northwestern branch to Winner, South Dakota, runs diagonally southeast and northwest, and stations along this line, within Boyd County are Monow, Lynch, Bristow, Spencer, the largest town in the county, Anoka and Baker. Other than Butte, the county seat, which the railroad barely missed, inland points are Naper, Gross and Rosedale. The settlements in this county really began much later than those of Holt, and most of the towns built up after the railroad came through.

The county was separated from Holt in 1891, and is the ninetieth county in the state. It, therefore, has a rather short separate history.

BROWN COUNTY

This county borders to the east of Cherry County, and the 100th meridian runs through it. The Niobrara River is its north border, and Blaine County is to the south, and Rock County to the east. It has an area of 1,235 square miles. The Northwestern Railroad runs through the county practically east and west. The stations on this line are the three main towns of the county. Long Pine, Ainsworth and Johnstown, the latter a village of slightly over a hundred and a quarter. Ainsworth, the county seat, is the largest town in the county, having a population of over one thousand. Long Pine is the oldest settled town. H. M. Uttley went from Wisner to Long Pine with a steam saw mill on May 13, 1878, and was the first settler there. Dennis Sullivan and A. N. Bassett settled in that vicinity. A postoffice was established at Bone Creek in August or September, 1878, but in 1881 discontinued and located at Long Pine. The present town of Long Pine, first called Long Pine Station, is probably ten miles below the first Long Pine, located on Long Pine Creek. In 1880 the only points in this vicinity were Long Pine Station, Long Pine, Bone Creek, Evergreen and Burrows. All of the other points in this county are now south of the railroad, and south of Ainsworth and Long Pine. Among these little inland points are, Ahmi, Sunnyside, Raven, Midvale, Pike, Beardwell, Mary, Giles, Enderslake, Lakeland, and Burgan.

The county was established in 1883, and in the following year, Keya Paha County was taken off the north. Prior to 1883, it was a part of the unorganized territory, and for a while, of the big Sioux County, when that was in an unorganized state.

BURT COUNTY

Burt County lies in the eastern tier, flanking on the Missouri River, and is the second county north of Douglas County, containing 475 square miles. It was named in honor of Nebraska Territory's first governor, Francis Burt, being one of the original eight counties. Its county seat, Tekamah was founded in 1855 by B. R. Folsom, W. N. Byers, J. W. Patterson, H. C. Purple, John Young, Jerry Folsom, Mr. Maynard, William T. Raymond, and a Mr. White, in the name of the Nebraska Stock Company, organized in October, 1854. Decatur, in the northeast corner of the county, was located in the fall of 1855, by the Decatur Town and Ferry Company, the principal members of which were Stephen Decatur, Peter A. Sarpy, B. R. Folsom, and W. B. Beck, and platted in the summer of 1856. Settlements were made at Lyons in 1867 and 1868, but the first store opened in 1871. Oakland was started in 1870, upon a site which John Oak, who settled there in 1862, had purchased from the original owner, Mr. Aaron Arlington, who settled in that vicinity in 1859. Bancroft started upon the arrival of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad in 1880, but this town is now in Cuming County. Other stations on the railroad just named are Eureka, Zion, Craig, Peak, and in addition to Decatur being an inland point now, so is Argo. Newton, Arizona, Riverside, Alder Grove postoffice and Golden Spring were former settlements in this county.

BUFFALO COUNTY

Buffalo County is nearly in the central part of the state; being just south of Custer County, in which the geographical center of the state is located. A famous ranch has been established at the point which is 1,433 miles from New York, and the same distance from San Francisco, this being the midway mark of the continent, east and west, and is very close to the City of Kearney. Buffalo County was first settled by the Mormons in 1858, when they located at Wood River Center, now Shelton, in the very eastern edge of the county. This county suffered some material damage in the Indian raids of 1864, and the exodus of settlers that took place then was a deterrent for a time to its settlement. But by 1870 it had sufficiently recovered to form its own organization. For some ten years it had virtually been a part of Hall County. The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad came through in 1872, some six years after the Union Pacific had built across the county. Kearney Junction, later City of Kearney, was settled in 1870, at the point where the Burlington joined the Union Pacific main line, upon a townsite selected by D. N. Smith, representing Burlington interests. This location was made under the guidance of Moses H. Sydenham, who had resided in that vicinity since 1856, and to whom great credit is due for a guiding influence he exercised in the earliest days of central Nebraska. The Huntsman's Echo, a paper started in 1858 at Wood River Center, by Joseph Johnston, while a Mormon sheet, was probably the first notable venture of the Nebraska Territorial Press in the central part of the state, and is one of the most quoted from of all territorial papers for historical data of that period. Buda, located as Kearney Station, when the Union Pacific reached that point in 1866, for some time was the county seat, but lost this distinction and waned down to a small village. For a few years its name was Shelby and then changed to Buda. Gibbon was laid out in 1871 and has been a most enterprising small town in all of the years. Perhaps no citizen of Gibbon had done more to make its name well known and revered in the State of Nebraska than Hon. Samuel C. Bassett. Mr. Bassett has served the agricultural interests of the state in many ways, and been one of the foremost students of Nebraska history and writer of a most interesting and instructive column in recent years published weekly in the Nebraska State Journal. Some years ago he prepared an excellent history of Buffalo County, and has served as president of the State Historical Society for the past few years. Elm Creek was started along about 1870, and Stevenson and Odessa became stopping points on the railroad very early. Butler's Ranch and Optic are also merely flagging stations. When the Burlington line to the Black Hills and Wyoming was built, St. Michael, Ravenna, the second largest town in the county and a Burlington division point, and Sweetwater sprang up. There are several stations on a Union Pacific branch from Kearney toward Stapleton; being Glenwood Peak, Riverdale, Amherst, Watertown and Miller. Natasket, South Ravenna, Pleasanton and Poole, are in the very northern edge of the county on another Union Pacific branch, and inland points are Sartoris and Peake.

BUTLER COUNTY

This county is located in the eastern part of the state, fifty-one miles directly west of the Missouri River and even with Omaha as to north and south position,

containing an area of 583 square miles. The county was visited by Fremont in his expedition of 1842, but the first permanent settlement was made in 1857. The county was organized in 1868, and Savannah, the first county seat held that distinction for only four years, when it lost to David City, the present county seat. The first railroad built in was the Burlington & Missouri River Company in 1880. Since then the county has become pretty well honeycombed with railroads, David City being an important junction point for diverging branch lines. Ulysses, at the very southern edge of the county was started in 1868, and is several years the senior of David City. During the four years, Savannah, which was laid out as early as 1859, had the court house; it was a thriving village. When the Omaha & Republican Valley branch, now Union Pacific, built through this county in 1878 several enterprising stations were located, among which were Rising City and Brainard. Other towns in the county along this line are Loma and Poley. Brainard was on the old Mormon trail through this vicinity. Other towns in the county now are Surprise, Millerton, Dwight, in the southern part, and Octavia, Brono, Able, Nimburg, Linwood, and Edholm, in the northern part. The Platte River forms the northern boundary of the county.

CASS COUNTY

Cass is one of the original counties of the state, immediately south of Sarpy County. Its first settlement by Samuel Martin in 1853 has been elsewhere narrated. In 1856 it had a population of 1,251. Plattsmouth, its county seat, very early became an important railroad town and one of the important towns of the state. The first company of Nebraska volunteers in the war of the Rebellion was organized at Plattsmouth on the same day that the news of the breaking out of the war was received. Soon after the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad built into Plattsmouth in 1869, it located its principal shops there. The Missouri Pacific Railroad came into the county in 1882. Speculators, as well as settlers, came into this county in the late '50s, and by the speculating element, three townsites were laid out on Weeping Water Creek; that of Weeping Water, which has survived and made a splendid town; of Grand Rapids and Caledonia, the later town of Grand Rapids taking another site. Louisville was incorporated by the Legislature in 1857, but no substantial building took place until the Burlington Railroad arrived in 1870. Greenwood, in the very northwest corner of the county, was located in 1869 by S. C. Bethel; Rock Bluff City, later Rock Bluff, was laid out in 1856, and another town North Rock Bluff, laid out about the same time, was consolidated with it in 1858. South Bend was laid out by speculators in 1857, but not much done in way of building until 1870 when the railroad arrived. Factoryville was the site of three mills and an attempt to build a town around the early milling industry. Avoca was platted in 1882, at the crossing of the Missouri Pacific and Wabash tracks; Union grew from a settlement made as early as 1869; Elmwood grew from a very early settlement; and many newer towns have sprung up and flourished. Among the more prominent of these are perhaps Nehawka, which though small has furnished the state with statesmen; in recent years Gov. Geo. L. Sheldon and Congressman E. M. Pollard living in that vicinity. Avoca platted in 1857; Englo, on the Lancaster County line in southwestern corner; Wabash; Murray, Mynard; Orepolis, a railroad point of some importance; La Platta,

Cullom, Cedar creek, Munley, Murdock, Alvo, and Prairie Home. Among numerous towns projected in this county, which further evidence the spirit of speculation that strikes every new country and of which Cass County was a good example of its effect on our territorial days, were Cedar creek City, filed plat in 1870; Elgin, 1857; Clay City, November, 1856; Troy, 1857; Saline, 1857; Cladonia, 1857; Capital City, 1857; Carlisle, 1856; Bluffdale, 1857; Centerville, 1857; Kanosha, 1858, and Eldorado, 1857.

CEDAR COUNTY

This county is located in the very northeastern corner of the state, and has an area of 735 square miles. It was organized in 1857. In the years 1858, 1862 and 1863, the Indians committed many depredations in Cedar County, burning homes, stealing stock and murdering a few settlers. St. Helena, was the early county seat, succeeding the very first county seat, St. James, in 1859. These two places are now inland points in the very northern part of the county. The first settlers in the county were a group from Harrison County, Iowa. Waucapona as well as St. Helena was settled in 1858. Then Saby Strahm and a few others started Strahmberg, in northwest corner of county opposite the present town of Yankton, South Dakota. This county had a number of other towns, that no longer extensively flourish, being Smithland, Logan Valley, St. Peters, Center Bow, Bow Valley, and Menominee, most of which had a postoffice, store and school, and did not survive railroad extensions. Hartington is now the county seat and principal town of the county. A group of very splendid towns grew up in the south part of the county after the arrival of the railroads, being Randolph, a junction point of two lines; Belden, Laurel, likewise a junction point of two lines of railroad; Magnet, Coleridge. In the northern part, are a new station called St. James; Wynot, Fordyce, with Aten as an inland point, practically at the old Strahmberg location.

CHASE COUNTY

This county is located in the extreme western part, bordering on Colorado, and being just north of the extreme corner county, Dundy. The early occupation in this county was cattle raising exclusively, and it was not until in the late '80s that settlement for farming purposes came in very thickly. Frease and Wauneta were the first towns in the county, and the latter is still an important town, being second town in the county. Imperial, the county seat, is the terminus of a branch from Culbertson, the only railroad line into the county. Imperial, Wauneta and Enders are the three railroad stations in the county. The other points, all being inland, are Best, Champion, Lamar and Chase in the western part of the county, and Catherine and Blanche, in the northeastern part. While the county was given legal establishment in 1873, it did not really function for some years later.

CHERRY COUNTY

This is the largest county in the state, with an area of 5,979 square miles; but a large portion of this not very densely settled. The county is traversed east and west by the Niobrara Railroad and has the main line of the Northwestern Railroad to the Black Hills running across the county. This county was a part of the

unorganized territory, until that vast region assumed the name of Sioux County. It was given separate establishment in 1883, and was named in memory of Lieut. Samuel A. Cherry, Fifth Cavalry, who was killed near Rock Creek, Dakota, about eight miles north of Fort Niobrara, May 11, 1881. The people who thought their "right of petition" had the selecting of a name for the county were most of them acquainted with the valiant soldier, and the name was adopted by practically universal consent. Fort Niobrara in those stormy days was the main center of activities in that region. By the time of the establishment of the county there were practically no settlements within its borders except Fort Niobrara, McCann, and Poor's Ranch. Cherry County is dotted with hundreds of lakes, but among those which had received a name forty years ago, were Lake Stephenson, Soda Lake in western part of the county; Dad's Lake, Red Deer Lake, Marsh Lake and Pelican Lake. The stations and towns that have built up along the railroad now are Wood Lake, Arabia, Thatcher, Valentine, the county seat and thriving metropolis of the county; Crookston, Kilgore, Nenzel, Cody, Roxby, Eli, Merriman, Leat, Irwin, Soudan. Cherry County has a myriad of inland points; along the Niobrara River are, Bayonne, Harlan, Lavaca, Bailey, McCann, Burge, and north of the railroad, are Britt, Harmony, Hire, and Sparks. In the vicinity of Snake River are Dewey Lake, Hood, Lake; along Boardman's Creek, are Lund, Balfe, Rolf, Chesterfield, and Matteson, at its junction with Snake River. Along the North Loup River are Pullman, at its headwaters, Capwell, Ethel, DeWitty, Brownlee, the important trading center of the southern portion of the county; Lewanna, Cascade and Elsmere. In the southwestern quarter, west and south of the headwaters of the North Loup are Martindale, Survey, King, Pullman, Big Creek, Curlew, Cherry, Erik, and Wells. In the eastern portion of the county, inland points mainly in the lake vicinity are, Kennedy, Oasis, Red, Deer, Conterra, Vian, Rex, Elizabeth, and Simeon. It is very probable that places just as important as some of these have been omitted among the myriad of such inland points in this county, which is in itself a vast and partially undeveloped empire.

CHEYENNE COUNTY

Cheyenne County was organized by the second state legislature by act approved June 12, 1867. An election was not held until 1870, and the first officers were then elected. The county was quite appropriately named for the Cheyenne Indians. The county, in the period extending from 1864, when the Indians began to resent the intrusion of the numerous white settlers, was the scene of a great deal of military activity. Numerous military camps and forts were established in the borders of the county as it then existed. In September, 1864, Camp Shuman was established three miles west of Scottsbluff Gap; and minor fortifications at Ficklin's, nine miles east of Scottsbluff, and Mud Springs, eight miles easterly from Courthouse Rock. Fort Grattan was built at the mouth of Ash Hollow, after the battle of that name. Fort Sidney was established December 13, 1867, known then as Sidney Barracks. It became an independent post November 28, 1870, and was abandoned June 1, 1874. Sidney built up after the railroad came through in 1867. Lodgepole, Sunol, Potter, Colton and Herndon soon followed, and later stations established on the Union Pacific, have been Margate and Brownson. The Burlington branch from Alliance to Sterling and Denver, Colorado, has brought about a

number of towns, including Lorenzo, Huntsville, Marlowe, Gurley and Dalton. Numerous inland points in this county, as it finally stands after six counties have been taken out of its original area, are Sextorp, Leafdale, Ickes, Clara, Henry and Weyerts.

CLAY COUNTY

This name was first given to a county later absorbed by Gage and Lancaster, and in 1867 transferred to the present Clay County, in the second tier from the south border of state and three counties west of Lincoln, with an area of 579 square miles. The first white settlement was made by John B. Weston, afterwards auditor of the state, in 1857. A group of about as evenly balanced towns in population and trade strategical positions has been built up in this county, as it would be possible to find anywhere within such close confines. Of these five towns, Sutton, the largest, and the first county seat of the county, was started in 1870, by settlement of Luther French; but the first business house opened in May, 1871. Harvard started in 1871. Edgar had a postoffice established in 1872, and was laid out in 1873. Fairfield was projected in 1872 when the St. Joe and Western Railroad reached that far. When the B. & M. Railroad came in, Sutton and Grafton had a very bitter struggle for supremacy, as it was proposed to leave Sutton without a depot. Clay Center started in 1879, and eventually won the countyseat-ship. With five such splendid towns, all having more than a thousand population, Clay County has a large number of other railroad stations; among which are Ong, Deweese, Springranch, Alma Junction, Glenville, Verona, Saronville, Inland, Trumbull and Eldorado. Inland was laid out in 1871; Glenville in 1873; and Springranch established as a postoffice in 1870.

COLFAX COUNTY

Colfax is in the third tier from the Missouri River, on the north banks of the Platte River, and contains 276,480 acres of land. It was first settled in 1856, but the early settlements did not flourish very generally until the Union Pacific Railroad was built through in 1865-6. Schuyler, the county seat, was established in 1869. The story of the foundation of Buchanan has been told in another chapter in this work, relating to establishment of towns. Rogers and Richland were early shipping points on the Union Pacific main line. Richland at one time was called Benton and was a town of some promise. Lambert is another station on the Union Pacific main line. A line of the Northwestern road running east and west through the north side of the county has built up Howells, Clarkson and Leigh, three thriving little towns, and Bissell, Heun and Wells are inland towns.

CUMING COUNTY

Cuming County is in the northeastern part of the state, with only Burt between it and the Missouri River to the east, and contains 504 square miles. It was originally settled in 1856, by Benjamin B. Moore, wife, daughter and three sons, from Hillsdale, Mich. They settled at Catherine, or Dead Timber, as then called. In March, 1857, Uriah Bruner, John J. Bruner, Henry A. Kusters, William Sexaner, Andrew J. Bruner, Peter Weindheim, Henry Eike, Charles Beindorf and

others of Omaha, organized as "The Nebraska Settlement Association," and the results of their surveys and excursions was the town of West Point, in the southeast corner of the county, and the future county seat of the county. John D. Neligh was an early settler and the first treasurer of the county. West Point was platted and surveyed as a town in 1869. A store was opened at Wisner the same year. Bancroft was platted in 1880 when the branch to Pender went through. Beemer is another town, between Wisner and West Point that has built into a thriving trade center. Monterey is an inland point. Cuming County has about as few towns in the state as any county of its size, but is in an excellent agricultural district and is a very prosperous county.

CUSTER COUNTY

Custer County is the second largest county in the state, and is situated right in the center. The geographical center of the state is near Westerville in eastern Custer County. It would take a separate volume to do justice to even a condensed history of Custer County. Settlements were not made in this county, of a permanent nature, until 1873 and 1874. The county was organized in 1877 and named after the martyred Gen. George A. Custer, who had met his tragic death in the preceding year. The first county seat projected was Custer, on the South Loup River, some twenty miles south of its eventual successor, Broken Bow. A proposed Garber County, just west of Valley, and in present northeastern Custer County, failed of organization, but the name stuck for some time to that territory until after the organization of the present Custer County. The remainder of the unorganized territory in this region was for a time known as Kountze County, after the wealthy bankers of Omaha, but that name was likewise superseded by Custer. Lewis R. Dowse, who settled in the Middle Loup Valley in 1873, is accorded generally the honor of being the first settler in the county, antedating the others. The first postoffice established in the county was at New Helena by C. R. Matthews. The different localities gradually settled up; Lee's Park, in 1874; Spencer's Park, in 1879; Lillian, 1880 or 1881; Merna Valley in 1882; W. G. Brotherton being one of the pioneer settlers of this region; Custer Center in 1880, when there was no Broken Bow yet; but there was a postoffice of that name kept by Mr. Pelham. The west table filled up from 1883 on. In June, 1889, settlers commenced to come to Dale. Redfern Table started to settle up in 1883-4. W. A. George, who had been in the county temporarily thirteen years before, settled near Georgetown in 1887, and thus the county filled up during the '80s very rapidly. In 1880, Wilson Hewitt was postmaster upon his homestead, but the name sent in had been rejected, and while he was trying to figure out a new name, the children brought in a broken arrow and bow, and he sat down and sent in the name "Broken Bow" which was accepted, and for many years remained the only town in the country with that name, until a large lumber company which had started its business career at Broken Bow, named a town in Oklahoma after the Nebraska town. The townsite was platted in 1882 by Jess Gandy, and the postoffice there then kept by C. D. Pelham, who had a store also. Westerville was an early town, and lost the county seat to Broken Bow, but two county fairs were held there, in 1883 and 1884, but Broken Bow secured the fair after that. Merna was projected in 1883, and has developed into a very important town. Lee's Park was laid out in 1884. But this town and Wescott

lost out, when the railroad built up the Middle Loup Valley, and Comstock, surveyed in 1899 and named for W. H. Comstock, and Sargent, secured the railroad line. The first settler in the South Loup Valley was Frederick Schreyer, who came in 1875. Mr. J. Woods Smith, in 1885, while reading in a paper in the lobby of the Paxton Hotel in Omaha that the Omaha & Republican Valley Railroad was going to build a branch up the South Loup Valley, from the Wood River Valley and Kearney, went to the map and chose a site for a townsite, which materialized into Callaway, the town being named in honor of S. R. Callaway, then general manager of the Union Pacific road. Dr. L. Micheal, Harry O'Neill and John Moran were among the first to build business places in the new town. The postoffice on the Graves farm called Delight was moved and name changed to Callaway. Berwyn started in 1887. Mason City, the "Queen City of the Muddy," was located by the Lincoln Land Co. in 1886; Sargent was laid out in 1883; Ansley was projected in 1886; Anselmo, named for Anselmo Smith, a Burlington surveyor, was started about 1886; Oconto was located in 1887, and Arnold, named in honor of George Arnold, was laid out in 1883, but waited practically forty years for the arrival of the railroad. Other stations in Custer County, are Lodi, Triumph, Milldale, on the Union Pacific branch that runs through Callaway, Oconto and Arnold on up to Stapleton. Inland points are Scandia, Cumro, Georgetown, Etna, Table, Tuckerville, Ryno, McKinley, and Klump in the southern and western part of the county, some of which have been virtually abandoned in recent years. In the eastern and northern parts, there are Huxley, Kingston, Coburg, Elton, Weissart, Round Valley, Gates, Millburn, Phillipsburg and Walworth.

DAKOTA COUNTY

This county is in the northeastern corner of the state, with the Missouri River as its northeastern border, being virtually a triangular county, with only 253 square miles of area. It was created in 1855. Dakota City, the county seat was located in 1856. Ten miles west of Dakota City was started Jackson, first called Franklin, the name changed to avoid conflict with another town of that name. This started about 1860. Homer, in the southeastern part of the county, started in 1872. Other towns in the county are Hubbard, started 1880; Covington, started 1856, five miles north of Dakota City on the Missouri River; Emerson, formerly in this county, but now in Thurston County, was established in 1881. Other more modern towns are Nacora, Coburn, Wood Park, Goodwin and Vista.

DAWES COUNTY

Situate within a few miles of the foot of the famous Black Hills, in the extreme northwestern portion of Nebraska, with only Sioux County between it and Wyoming, lies Dawes County. The territory embraced in Dawes County was first settled in 1884, by a band of as hardy and determined pioneers as ever crossed the plains to seek homes in the Great West. Prominent citizens who signed a petition in 1885 included the following early settlers among others, Cyrus Fairchild, B. S. Paddock, E. S. Nesbitt, E. Egan, B. F. Carley, F. M. Dorrington, J. H. McMillan and W. H. Reynolds. The location of the county seat was hotly contested between Chadron and Dawes City, the latter now known as Whitney, but Chadron won by

a vote of 582 to 364, and 3 cast for Bordeaux. The county is 36 miles square. The Nebraska and Northwestern division of the Northwestern, has developed the towns of Bordeaux, Chadron, Dakota Junction; Whitney, and Crawford, the junction of this line and the Burlington, which also has the stations of Horn, Rutland, Belmont, Dooley and Marshland at the southern border of the county. Wayside is on a branch that leads from Chadron into the Black Hills. Inland points are Pine Ridge, Dunlap, Pepper Creek, Antelope, Wolvington, Manchester, Hough. Any county with two such thriving, metropolitan cities as Chadron and Crawford has a future before it. In recent years, different wholesale houses over the country have been choosing one or the other of these cities for distributing center, and Crawford is especially well located for this purpose, while Chadron is developing as a railroad point.

DAWSON COUNTY

Dawson County is situated 215 miles west of the Missouri River, on the banks of the Platte River, and contains 985 square miles. In the times of the overland freight and emigrant traffic, Dawson presented many lively aspects, and in the days of the cattle range, Plum Creek was a terminus of fame, along with Ogallala to the west. The county was settled in 1861-3 to a very slight extent. The county was organized in 1871. It was in Dawson County that the famous raid was started in 1864 with the massacre of the emigrant train of eleven wagons. Plum Creek, was established in 1871. In 1889 its name was changed to Lexington, and it is today a thriving little city. Overton was first settled in 1873, and in that same year, John J. Cozad came out from Ohio and bought land of the Union Pacific, and made arrangements for a town there. It was at one time called Hundredth Meridian, as it is located practically on that line, but eventually took the name, Cozad. Willow Island was laid out early in the '80s, and later another town started west of it, at the very western edge of the county, that is a very thriving small town, Gothenberg. Farnam in the southwest corner is on a Union Pacific branch; Sumner and Eddyville in the northeastern corner are on another Union Pacific branch. Josselyn is a station some forty years old. Dass and Buffalo are about the only inland points.

DEUEL COUNTY

Deuel County was organized in the fall of 1888, when it was cut off from Cheyenne County. This division held until 1910 when Garden County was divided from the north portion, Deuel County was named after a division superintendent of the Union Pacific. Much of the early history of the county is embraced in the general story of Cheyenne. Its county seat, Chappell, like Sidney, dates back to its first beginnings to the time the Union Pacific came through about 1866, or 1867. Big Springs and Barton sprang up before the county was settled for more than ranching purposes. Perdu and Ralton are other stations on the Union Pacific line. Between Big Springs and Chappell, the two main towns of the county, the Union Pacific line delves down into Colorado and touches Julesburg. This famous old frontier town has been so closely associated with Deuel County, or perhaps vice versa, that it is hard to separate the two. With Garden County taking 1,652 square miles of area, Deuel was left with only 439 square miles, so it must make up in quality what it lost in quantity.

DIXON COUNTY

Dixon county is the most northeasterly county in the state, and has an area of 472 square miles. Previous to the advent of white men, this county was the home of various tribes of Indians, mainly the Poncas. The first settlers, so far as can be ascertained, arrived in 1856, and among them were John, Solomon B., and Jacob Stough, two brothers named Brown, C. F. Putnam, and W. H. Jones. Hard times visited these first colonies in 1857 and 1858, and the Indian massacres in 1862 retarded growth for a time. Ponca, was surveyed and platted in 1856 by Doctor Stough and Frank West, its first chief proprietors. Martinsburg, now an inland point, was started in 1873. Towns that once flourished in this county were, Logan Grove, Parkhill postoffice, New Castle, Ionia, Lime Creek, Aoway Creek, Dailey Branch, Ellis, Silver Ridge, Hawkeye, and Spring Bank. Like other older counties, many changes have taken place in the smaller settlements. Towns now prominent in this county are, Wakefield, on Wayne-Dixon county line; Concord on the Hartington branch of the C., St. P., M. & O.; Dixon and Allen on another branch line, and Newcastle and Manskell in the northern part of the county above Ponca.

DODGE COUNTY

Dodge County is located in the second tier of counties from the Missouri River, and on the Platte River. It has an area of 531 square miles. The first settlement was made in 1856, when John and Arthur Bloomer made claims near the mouth of Maple Creek, in April. On May 25th, Mrs. Wealthy Beebe and her children and Abram McNeal, her son-in-law, settled two miles west of where Fremont later sprang up. On July 4th, the North Bend Colony arrived, and in August, 1856, the first settlements were made toward the inception of Fremont, where a town company was formed under the name of Pinney, Barnard & Co. On September 3, 1856, the town was named for Gen. John C. Fremont, the republican presidential candidate, and a man who certainly played no small part in discovering the possibilities of Nebraska. But, with all that appropriateness, it might have never received that name had it not been for its rival, twenty-five miles away on Shell Creek, named Buchanan. When the Sioux City & Pacific, the Elkhorn Valley branch of the Union Pacific was built, Scriber and Hooper sprang up about 1871. Timberville and Wallace, early stations on the Union Pacific have been displaced by Sandberg, and Ames, and Bay State. On the Scriber and Hooper branch, some forty years ago were also Oak Springs and Crowell, but now that northern part of the county boasts of Dodge and Snyder, as well as Crowell and Junction. Pleasant Valley, Everett and Clyde are inland points, and Nickerson, West End and Winslow are on another branch line. Mapleville, Pebble, Webster, Bohemia, Glenroe, Jamestown, Jalapa and Galena were formerly thriving inland points.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

This is the county of largest population in the state. With the City of Omaha, in its borders, having a population of over 191,000, or virtually 200,000 people, and perhaps one-sixth or more of the population of the state within its borders, this county presents a volume of history that it is absolutely impossible to condense

in the space this review can allot, and do ample justice in a fractional measure. It was one of the eight original counties, proclaimed by Governor Cuming. The first important settlements, as outlined in the chapter dealing more closely with towns, was made by the Mormons at Florence. The foundation of Omaha was also sketched therein. In 1854, the territorial capital was located at Omaha, and though that distinction was some thirteen years later surrendered to the new village of Lincoln, Omaha at once started to grow into the position of the metropolis of the state, and now not only has that position firmly launched, but is a serious contender for the broader distinction of being the commercial, industrial and manufacturing "Gateway of the Northwest." From the time the first ground was broken for the Union Pacific Railroad on December 3, 1863, Omaha's growth started by leaps and bounds. By 1870 the city had a population of 16,000, a figure now only eclipsed in the state, fifty years later, by Omaha and Lincoln. By 1880, Omaha was a city of around 40,000, and in 1920 barely missed 200,000. Florence, Dundee, Benson and South Omaha were recently taken into the corporate limits of Omaha, and became a part of Greater Omaha. The latter, South Omaha, with its great packing houses and stock yards, located therein, had reached the proportions of a city of almost 30,000 when it joined its bigger sister. Allbright and Ralston are thriving suburbs, so far escaped from annexation. Waterloo, laid out in 1871, and Millard, also laid out in 1871, and named for Ezra Millard, its founder, are thriving outside towns in the county, Mercer, Bonnington, Briggs, Elkhorn and Lane are smaller points in this county. The history of the state cannot be written on any subject treated elsewhere in this state historical review without touching extensively upon Omaha and Douglas County.

DUNDY COUNTY

Dundy County is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of the state with Colorado bounding it on the west, and Kansas on the south. Its area is 927 square miles. The census of 1880 showed a population of 1,880, and its settlements before that, dating back to 1872, were mainly for cattle ranching purposes. At the mouth of the Arickaree, J. Haigler had a ranch in 1872. The first principal settlement was around Collinsville, named in 1880 for Moses Collins. During 1881 and part of 1882, this point did a considerable business, being for that time a supply distributing station for the railroad. Early in the spring of 1882, the railroad company, having built a depot, changed its name to Benkleman, in honor of the extensive stock raiser, J. G. Benkleman. Other stations along the Burlington line in this county are Haigler, in the southwestern corner of the county; Parks and Max. Inland points are Lamont, Rollwitz and Lux. The county was organized for governmental purposes long after its legislative establishment, which was enacted in 1873, and was named in honor of United States Judge, Elmer S. Dundy. For many years it was attached to Hitchcock County for legislative, judicial and revenue purposes, and composed of but one precinct in its local government.

FILLMORE COUNTY

Fillmore County is located twenty-four miles north of southern boundary of the state, and ninety miles west from the Missouri River, with an area of 576 square

miles. The first settlement in the county was made in 1866, by William Bussard and William Whitaker. In 1868 a few more settlers came in, but it was in 1870 that the rush of emigration started. The county was organized in 1871, and in that year Geneva and Fairmont were laid out. Of the other towns, Grafton was founded in 1874, and Exeter, in 1871. The Burlington system built into the county in 1871, and in 1888 the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (now Northwestern) came in. Exeter is the junction of the Burlington east and west line, and a branch crossing from Seward down to Superior and the other towns that have developed on this line through the county are Sawyer (Geneva already mentioned), Martland, Shickley and Carlisle. In the south part on another line of railroad are Strang, W. Strang, E. Strang and Ohiowa, with Shickley as the junction between that B. & M. branch and the other one just named. Milligan and Burrese are on a branch that comes up from Fairbury and comes into Fairmont. Lyman is on still another branch. With six branch lines entering or traversing such a small county, it is one of the few counties in the state without an inland point of any consequence, for no farm in Fillmore County could be very many miles away from at least one or two lines of railroad.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County is in the southern tier of counties, 175 miles west of the Missouri River, and has an area of 578 square miles. It was settled in 1870 by a colony from Omaha, among whom were Wm. C. Thompson, Jas. W. Thompson, Richard Beckwith, John Corbin, Isaac Chappel and Barnett Ashbourne. In the following year practically every man in the colony joined a military company, formed to protect the settlements against the Indians. The county was formally organized in September, 1871. Bloomington, the county seat until 1920, was laid out in 1872. The Burlington Railroad line came in during 1879. The original Thompson party located at a point that later became Riverton, where the postoffice was established in 1871. Naponee was made a postoffice also in 1871. Franklin City was the earliest settlement that made a town, but another town which was first called Waterloo, was laid out, and always known as Franklin, and this place held the county seat until 1874, when Bloomington captured it, and in 1920 Franklin recaptured this coveted prize. In 1879, a town was laid out by the railroad company between the two Franklins, and it was that town which eventually captured the name. An academy, started in 1881 at Franklin, is an educational institution of wide repute. In the north part of the county along the Burlington branch to Curtis, the thriving towns of Campbell, Upland and Hildreth, have built up. Macon is still an inland point, and points that used to play a part in Franklin County affairs were Moline, Ash Grove, West Salem, Stockton, Amazon, Langdon, Marion, Clyde, Sand Hill, Freewater and Orange. The Republican River traverses the county through the southern tier of townships.

FRONTIER COUNTY

Frontier County is situated well toward the southwestern part of the state, in the second tier from the south, and with two counties yet west of it. It has an area of 975 square miles. The county was organized in January, 1872. At that

time there were several stock raisers, and two permanent settlers, Henry C. and Mortimer H. Clifford, who had married squaws and settled on the Medicine, a short distance from where Stockville was later located, and lived in lodges there. Stockville, very nearly in the center of the county, was the first settlement projected, and became the county seat. Curtis is the principal town in the county, and in 1911 secured the new State Agricultural College, to be located in the central or western portion of the state. Three other towns have built up along the Burlington Railroad in this county, besides Curtis. These are Maywood, Moorefield and Eustis. Besides Stockville, the only well-developed inland towns, are a number of inland points for postoffices or trading purposes, among these being Osburn, Counterpoint, Havana, Freedom, Essex, Quick, Stevens, Orafino and Earl. Laird, Stowe, Afton and Equality were formerly such inland points on this county's map that no longer seem to be on the scene of action.

FURNAS COUNTY

This county lies in the southern tier of counties, with three more counties to the west. It contains 721 square miles. The first settler is reputed to have been Benjamin Burton, who located there in 1870. Galen James made his way up the Republican Valley about this same time, to near Melrose and located at the junction of Sarpy County with the Beaver, which is a point practically on the present Furnas-Harlan county line, but in what was then known as James County. Theodore Phillips came in 1871 to a locality that became the settlement of New Era. Burton's Bend was started in 1871 by J. B. Burton at a point five miles west of Arapahoe. Arapahoe was surveyed in 1872. The first store in Beaver City, was started in 1873, but the town was settled in October, 1872. Arapahoe had been started through the efforts of a townsite company organized at Plattsmouth, in 1871, with Capt. F. B. Murphy, Charles Brown, Geo. W. Love, John Fitzgerald, Dr. W. E. Dowland, D. H. Wheeler, H. M. Crum, George W. Colvin, and A. Lashley as leading spirits. In the first elections with Arapahoe and Beaver City contesting for the advantage of being county seat, Beaver City had the most votes, but its returns did not arrive in the office of the secretary of state until the day after the canvassing was set, and as only Arapahoe's votes were counted it won, for the time being. But at the first general election in the county, in 1873, Beaver City won the prize, and has since retained it. Wilsonville was settled in 1872 and established as a post-office in 1873. Hendley was established by a Hastings townsite company in 1888. Other towns along the Imperial branch of the Burlington, besides Arapahoe, are Oxford, Edison, Holbrook and Cambridge and all four of these have developed into very well known trading and shipping centers. Only Springgreen and Precept remain actively on the list of inland points, which formerly some forty years ago also included Wilmot, Midway, Richmond, Sherman, Rockton, Coldwater, Carisbrook, Lynden, Whitney, and Rexford, and it might also be noted that in the early '80s, Beaver City and Wilsonville were, of course, also inland points.

GAGE COUNTY

Gage County is in the third tier of counties west of the Missouri River, and is the only county between Lancaster (Lincoln) and the Kansas line, and contains

832 square miles. The first settler was David Palmer, who came to the county in 1854, or 1855. Mr. Palmer was drowned in 1876 while swimming in the Blue River. On the morning of April 3, 1857, thirty-five persons on board the steamer Hannibal, then plying the Missouri between St. Louis and Nebraska City, organized themselves into a colony, which formed with a written constitution and by-laws, and upon arrival in what is now Gage County they chose a site and started the town of "Beatrice" so named after a daughter of Judge John F. Kinney, of Nebraska City, one of the leaders of the colony. Other leading spirits were J. B. Weston, later state auditor; G. T. Loomis, J. R. Nelson, Albert Towle, Dr. H. M. Reynolds, Bennett Pike, John McConihe, H. F. Cook and Dr. Wise. In the same year another settlement was made seven miles north of Beatrice, and still another at Blue Springs, ten miles southeast of Beatrice. The former, on Steven's Creek was in what was for a while Clay County. This settlement, which later took the name of Indian Creek was eclipsed by Beatrice in a commercial way. The Indians caused some trouble in the early history of these settlements, but treaties with the Government soon quieted down this situation. To a citizen of Gage County fell the honor of securing the first homestead entered in the United States. The homestead law went into effect in January, 1863, and he was ready the night before to secure his filing, stopping on his way to military service in the pending war. His patent is numbered 1, and is recorded in Volume 1, page 1 of the records of the general land office at Washington. The B. & M. reached Beatrice through the valley of the Blue in 1871. The Atchison & Nebraska, cuts across the northeast corner of the county, with about ten miles of line and one station, Adams. The Rock Island across the northwest corner of the county has Clatonia, and its branch east and west across the county, through Beatrice, has Virginia, Rockford and Ellis. The Burlington branch across the county east and west through Beatrice has Filley, a station also for Rockford, and Hoag. The Union Pacific line from Lincoln to Manhattan, north and south through the county, through Beatrice, has as stations, Cortland, and Pickrell, north of Beatrice and to the south, Putnam, Blue Springs, Wymore and Barneston. Another B. & M. line across the south edge of the county, which makes junction with the U. P. at Wymore, has developed the towns of Liberty, Kriders, Odell, Odell Junction and Lanham on a branch that breaks off at Odell Junction. Thus it will be noticed that Gage County is well honeycombed with railroad lines. Holmesville and Blue Springs Junction are on another spur of the Union Pacific. Only Hanover and Townsend appear to be actively on a list of inland points that forty years ago included Reserve, Dover, Wild Cat, Cottage Hill, Bear Creek, Melroy, Greer, Freeman, Roperville, Blaine, Barkey, Merserveville, and Silver. The old Otoe Indian reservation occupied the four townships in the southern tier of the county. The Otoe Agency was near the site of present town of Liberty.

GARDEN COUNTY

This county was cut off from Deuel County in 1910 and its history is mainly wrapped up in that of Deuel since 1888, and before that in the great mother county, Cheyenne. The principal permanent settlements, except for the early ranching activities of the great cattle ranchers, materialized late in the '80s and early '90s. Forty years ago there was not a settlement in this county and the only points charted

on maps were Rocky Point, Swan Lake and Beaver Lake. But this county has a number of very prosperous and thriving towns along the branch of the Union Pacific that comes up from North Platte, and goes on to the western edge of the state. Oshkosh is the county seat, and Lewellan, Lutherville, Penn, Lytle and Lisco, the other towns. To the south, the only inland point is Kowanda. The Platte River traverses the county, south of the railroad line. To the north a few inland points have sprung up, being mainly at Goodland, Velma, Warren, Lakeview, Tippetts, Rackett, Mumper, Orlando, Pawlet, Sterbins, Moffit and Thelma. On division, this county took 1652 square miles of territory and left Deuel with only 439 square miles of area.

GARFIELD COUNTY

The beginnings of Garfield County were laid in November, 1872, when Charles H. Jones, who came from Allegan, Michigan, after two years of roughing it, in the lower Loup Valleys, went up into the present Garfield County territory, and became the founder of the Willow Springs settlement. It is reputed that Trueman Freeman arrived very soon after Jones had squatted at the mouth of the cedar canyons. With him came Thomas McClimans, so the latter may be considered the third settler. William Pierson and A. R. Harper arrived in February, 1873, and soon after came Richard McClimans, the Messengers, William Draver, William Smith, Mrs. Bumpus, George Leffingwell, Captain Alger, Frank Webster, L. W. White, Geo. McNulty, Ike Bartholomew, Geo. Horton, Stephen Chase, Wm. Wertz, A. A. Alderman, and Ross and Wm. Woods. Garfield County is immediately south of Holt County and eighth county to the west from the Missouri River, and has an area of 575 square miles. The Battle of Pebble Creek in 1874 was the crux of Indian troubles the early settlers experienced, for in 1876 relief came in the establishment of Fort Hartsuff, the famous military post of the Loup region, within the borders of this county. For more than eight years after settlements began, Garfield County was in what was known as the "Unorganized Territory." For judicial and taxation purposes it was attached to Valley County. But in 1881, it was a part of the newly organized county of Wheeler, which had been established by the Legislature of 1877. In 1884, the actual division took place and Garfield County was separately organized. Burwell was proclaimed by the Governor as the first county seat—and at the election on December 30, 1884, there were three bitter contestants, Willow Springs, Burwell and Midvale. Midvale received the smallest number of votes, Willow Springs the highest, and another election was held on January 30, 1885, which resulted in Willow Springs leading by seven votes, but upon a recount in April, Burwell won by twenty-three votes and captured the prize. But a very interesting fight ensued for Willow Springs got the certificate of election. In 1887 the Burlington Railroad extended its grade to Burwell and on to Butka on the Calamus. The railroad never extended beyond Burwell, but that was the death blow to Willow Springs. So in an election in 1890 the county seat question was permanently settled in Burwell's favor. This county has several inland post-office points, namely: Easton, Erina, Gables, Rosevale, Deverre, Dumas, Blake and Ballagh, but bears the unique distinction among Nebraska counties of having only one actually developed town, Burwell. Another distinction borne by Burwell is that it was laid out with a public octagon, with the side streets diverging from the

centers of the sides, instead of the corners of the square. Then by a failure to preserve the central octagon for a park, business houses have built up on it and disfigured it, so Burwell has a square with business houses on both sides of the street, instead of a park or court house in the center, and the streets meeting the square in the middle of the sides.

GOSPER COUNTY

Gosper County is in the western part of the state, four tiers east of the western Colorado edge, and in the second tier north of Kansas line. It contains 464 square miles. Otto Renze made the first permanent settlement in the county, in the fall of 1871. Others soon followed and left the Republican and Platte Valleys on either side, and came to Plum Creek, or to Muddy, Elk or Turkey Creeks in the southern part. The organic election was held, near the geographical center of the county, in May, 1873. The county was named Gosper in honor of John J. Gosper, then Secretary of State. Daviesville, in the southwest part of the county was the early town, and county seat. Plum Creek, Vaughan's and Judson's ranches secured postoffices and stores before 1880. These places have all disappeared from the modern map, and upon the advent of the Burlington line from Holdrege, Nebraska, to Sterling, Colorado, Smithfield and Elwood, the latter now the county seat of the county, sprang up. Gosper and Ceryl are now inland points. The activities of the county, agriculturally, are a combination of crop and stock raising. Much of the trade of the southern section of the county goes to the Furnas County towns of Holbrook, Arapahoe, Edison and Oxford, which are nearer to southern Gosper County farms than Elwood and Smithfield.

GRANT COUNTY

This is the westerly of the four "sandhill" counties bordering vast Cherry County on the south. It has an area of 726 square miles, but is almost entirely a ranch country, only valley lands in small tracts being cultivated to crops. Hyannis, the county seat, was laid out with the arrival of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, then B. & M. railroad line, through northwestern Nebraska in 1888. The first settler was John Dellinger, who took the flat east of the present town. A Mr. White had the flat west of town shortly after this. W. M. Alden, who became the first business man in the town had a pre-emption here in 1888 which he sold to the Lincoln Townsite Company. Mr. Alden opened his store in July, 1888. Whitman was another town which soon built up, after the settlements began. For a time, about 1887, this town was the terminus of the railroad, pending its further extension. Even for a long time after that, it maintained its reputation of being a "real frontier" town with all of the trimmings that the movies now love to portray as belonging to cowboys, western "woolly" villages and ranch life. Ashby is the main town in the county to the west of Hyannis, and there are flag stations at Sand Cut and Duluth. Benewa, Lucky and Elva are the only inland points.

Grant County is the center of the cattle-ranching industry of Central Nebraska. Hyannis ships from 500 to 600 loads of cattle a year, and Whitman practically equals or occasionally excels this mark, and approximately 1200 loads of cattle are shipped out of this small county annually, though much of it comes from the

ranches to the north in Cherry County. Hyannis has ranked as the wealthiest town per capita in the United States, as this little town of less than 400 people has two banks with deposits in excess of \$400,000 not considering the other banks in the county, but roughly estimating it, giving this town a bank deposit per capita of \$1000 per person. Even allowing for the people concerned in this estimation who live outside of the town, or even county, contrasted with the \$57 per capita for the United States, a per capita deposit of \$600 per person for Grant County shows the status of this community and county. Before the separate organization of the county, about 1888, it was a part of the Unorganized Territory, and of Big Sioux County.

GREELEY COUNTY

Greeley County is situated in the sixth tier of counties west of the Missouri River, in the central part of the state, north to south, containing 571 square miles in area. Its original settlement dates back to 1871, when S. C. Scott, A. Shepard and J. G. Kellogg, came from Illinois and located on Shepard Creek, on the north side of the Loup. Settlements followed on Fish Creek in November, 1871, Cedar Creek in 1872, Spring Creek in 1874, where a postoffice was established, but the first postoffice was established at Lamartine, on the Loup, in 1873, with Mr. A. Fish in charge. The county was organized on October 8, 1872, and the county seat located at an election in November, 1874, as at Scotia. The county was named after Horace Greeley. An Irish settlement was established near the center of the county in 1877, a town laid out, platted and named O'Connor, in honor of Bishop O'Connor, who was a member of the Catholic Colonization Association that fathered the colony. The Irish Catholic Association selected another site in the northeastern corner of the county, on the Cedar, and Spalding was opened up about 1881, when the first store was located. Forty years ago before any railroad had come into the county, the towns and postoffices were Scotia, O'Connor and Spalding, with Lamartine, Summit, Chase, Ellsworth, Floss, Leo Valley. When the Union Pacific branch from Grand Island to Ord was built, it touched at Scotia Junction, and land was given to the railroad on condition that it would run a sideline over to the town of Scotia and run all of its trains into Scotia, and all passenger and regular freight trains make that side-trip of a mile away from the direct line through the corner of the county. The Burlington built a branch in 1887 through the county, from Aurora, on to Ord and Burwell, and on this line sprang up the towns of Wolbach, Brayton, Greeley Center, which later became the county seat of the county and the largest town in the county, and Horace. A branch line of eighteen miles built about the same time, runs from Greeley Center through Belfast and Horace to Ericson, just across the line into Wheeler County. O'Connor and Parnell remain as the inland settlements of the county. This county has developed into a thriving and prosperous county, with a showing of freight shipments, bank deposits, and such criterions that hold it up even with its neighboring Loup Valley counties.

HALL COUNTY

Upon the 4th of July, 1857, the little colony of thirty-five brave pioneers, from Davenport, Iowa, arrived at Great (or Grand) Island in the Platte, and about two

and half miles below the site of the present city of Grand Island, and on the Platte banks founded the only white colony in the state, then west of Columbus, except the military reservations to the west, at Fort Kearney. This colony comprised five Americans, R. C. Barnard a surveyor, and his brother Lorens Barnard of Washington, D. C., and Joshua Smith, David P. Morgan and William Seymour, of Davenport, and the following German-Americans, mainly from Holstein, Germany, originally: William Stolley, Fred Hedde, Christian Menke, William A. Hagge, and Henry Joehuch, the leading spirits among the band; Kai Ewoldt, Anna Stehr, Henry Schoel and wife, Fred Doll and wife; George Shultz, Fred Vatje, Johann Hamann, Detlef Sass, Peter Stuhr, Hans Wrage, Nicholas and Cornelius Thodel, Henry Schaaf, Matthias Gries, Fred Landmann, Herman Vasold, Theo. Nagel, Christian Andersen, wife and child of four years. The first settlement built up some business places, fortified itself well, and withstood the Indian scares of 1864 without leaving or losing any lives, though Indians committed other depredations in this county, narrated more fully in the Indian section of this review. When the railroad came through in 1866, the present town of Grand Island was laid out, and business activities moved over. Here the county seat was formally established, though the county had been organized and functioning in its local government in a rather disjointed manner since 1858. The settlement in the west part of the county, at Wood River, moved over to the railroad in 1868, from that site two and half miles west of the present town where a depot and James Jackson's store were located, moved to the present location in 1874. Alda started soon after the railroad went through, being on the Union Pacific between Grand Island and Wood River. Doniphan started on the St. Joe and Grand Island route in 1879. Cairo was located in 1886 when the Grand Island & Wyoming Railroad, now the Burlington line, went through the northwestern part of the county. Former inland points in the county were Martinville, Orchard, Cameron, Berwick, Spencer, Rundlett, and Runelsburgh. Now Cameron is practically the only inland center remaining. The industrial progress of Grand Island has been noted elsewhere, and that bespeaks the commercial growth of the county.

HAMILTON COUNTY

Hamilton County is the first county east of Hall County and lies on the south side of the Platte River. Its area is 538 square miles, ten square miles in excess of that of Hall. The first permanent settlements were made in 1866 by Jarvie Chafee and George Hicks. The famous Deep-Well ranch, thirteen miles west of the first ranch in the county, that of David Millspaw, established in 1861, followed the Millspaw ranch in 1862. These were famous stopping places along the "Old Mormon Trail" until permanent settlements came. The county was organized in 1870, by proclamation of Governor Butler, and its name had been given by legislative enactment. Orville City was located on the West Blue, surveyed and recorded in 1870 and selected at the election of 1871 as the county seat, which honor was wrested from it in 1876 by the town of Aurora, which had been established in 1872. Hamilton was established on the prairie in 1874. Other early settlements, at inland points, of course, were at Farmer's Valley, Mirimichi, Williamsport, Lerton, Shiloh, Stockham, Buckeye, Cedar Valley, Otis, Avon,

Leonard, Bunker Hill, Alvin, St. Joe, and Penn. The Burlington road first built in from York, Seward and Lincoln and turned north from Aurora to Central City, and then in 1884, extended onward to Grand Island and Northwest. Hampton was platted in 1879, as the railroad came through to Aurora, by Joshua Cox. The other railroad towns in Hamilton County now are, Marquette to the north of Aurora, Murphy and Phillips to the west, Giltner to the southwest and Stockham in the southeastern corner of the county.

HARLAN COUNTY

This county is located on the middle, southern border of the state. As late as in the summer of 1869, Buck's surveying party were attacked in this particular territory and slain by Indians. The original settlers of this county, about forty in number, arrived in what is now Harlan County, but was then part of Lincoln County in August, 1870. Among these men were J. W. Foster, F. A. Bieyon, Gen. Victor Vifquain, John Olson, Frank Hofnagle, V. Toepfner, S. Watton, Henry Melchert, N. Peterson, G. Hanson, J. B. Mitchell, Lewis Lorson, Geo. F. Jonas, Joseph and Lewis Hubner, and Andrew Rubin. Lots were cast for the selection of claims, and while not the first in order of choice, Vifquain and a few others slyly selected the old townsite of Napoleon, near Orleans. Vifquain, failing in the successful projection of the first "paper" town in Harlan County, returned to the eastern part of the state, and Judge William Gaslin later secured proprietorship of this townsite. In December, 1871, when Judge Gaslin returned to his homestead, from Omaha, he brought with him Warren M. Fletcher, who homesteaded the future site of Orleans. D. N. Smith, the noted townsite locator for the Burlington decided to locate a town in this vicinity and this site was chosen, and the town got started by 1872. The townsite of Alma was chosen in 1871 by Mark Coad, N. P. Cook and others, and named "Alma" after a daughter of Mr. Cook. The first store was erected in 1872. After an election in July, 1871 for purpose of organizing the county, Alma was chosen as county seat. Another town, Republican City, was laid out in 1871. Melrose was really the first town in the county, having been planned in 1870 and secured a store early in 1871, but it never successfully flourished, after losing the county seat fight, first to Republican City, which in turn lost to Alma, and Orleans supplanting Melrose in a commercial way. Early inland points in the county were Graft, Bainbridge, Scandanavia, Grand View, Spring Grove, Garber and Pleasant Ridge. Spring Hill and Watson were formerly railroad stations. Stamford and Republican Junction have grown up in more modern times. A branch now runs from Orleans up to Holdrege, upon which Carter, Oxford Junction and Mascot are located. Another branch from Alma up to Minden has Huntley, Everson and Ragan.

HAYES COUNTY

Hayes County is one county removed from the west, being east of Chase, and one county removed from the southern line of the state, being north of Hitchcock. It was given legislative organization in an Act of 1877 and named for the new President, Rutherford B. Hayes, but formed no actual county government for some years later, during which time it was for judicial and revenue purposes

attached to Frontier County. The first postoffice, antedating any actual towns, were Carrico, Estell, McNaughton, and Thornburg. The only railroad facilities the county now has, more than forty years later, in 1920, is the Imperial branch of the Burlington cutting across the southwest corner through the town of Hamlet. Palisade in Hitchcock County and Wauneta in Chase County are each barely across from the Hayes County line and influence Hayes County trade considerably. Hayes Center, the county seat, is an inland town, started in the '80s. Other inland points in the county are, Robert, Lucile, Rain, Strickland, Marengo and Thornburg.

HITCHCOCK COUNTY

This county is in the southwestern corner of the state just east of Dundy, and itself on the Kansas border. It was organized in 1873, by proclamation of Governor Furnas, and named in honor of Ex-United States Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock, father of present United States Senator, Gilbert M. Hitchcock. It contains 724 square miles in area, two more than Hayes, its neighbor to the north. It was first settled by ranchmen in 1869, but it was in 1873 that the first permanent settlers arrived, when G. C. Gessleman took a claim near the mouth of Blackwood Creek. A dozen or so other settlers came in May of that year. Nineteen votes were polled at the first election, on August 30, 1873, and Culbertson was chosen as county seat. The townsite of Culbertson was selected in 1873, and surveyed in 1875 by D. N. Smith. In the fall of 1873 took place in this county and near Culbertson the memorable battle in which the Sioux so decisively and destructively defeated the Pawnee. Following Culbertson, Stratton on the Burlington line and Palisade, as an inland town sprang up. When the branch went from Culbertson to Imperial, Palisade became a railroad station and later Beverly moved up to the railroad. But the greatest blow to Culbertson, was the location of Trenton, near the center of the county, on the Burlington line and its capture of the county seat.

HOLT COUNTY

Holt County is on the northern edge of the state, with the Niobrara River as its northern border, and immediately west of Knox and Antelope counties. It is the fourth largest county in the state in area, only excelled by Cherry, Custer and Lincoln, and has an area of 2,393 square miles, after losing Boyd County from its north section. The first settler in the county is reputed to have been Wm. H. Inman, who erected a house on the banks of the Elkhorn in 1872. In 1873 a good sprinkling of settlers came in, and an attempt for organization was made, and upon a showing of facts a proclamation secured from Governor Furnas, but in 1876, the permanent organization of the county was proclaimed by Governor Garber, and the first election held on August 26, 1876. On May 12, 1874, Gen. John O'Neill, in whose honor the town was named, with a colony of his countrymen arrived. In this party were Neil Brennan, Patrick S. Hughes, Timothy O'Connor, Henry Curry, Thomas Connolley, Michael H. McGrath, Thomas N. J. Hynes, Michael Dempsey, Thomas Kelly, Robert Alworth, Ralph Sullivan, Patrick Brennan, Thomas Cain, Henry Carey and Patrick McKarney. Others came soon, and in 1875, the general brought his second colony. The townsite of O'Neill, of 160 acres, was laid out and platted in May, 1874, and another eighty acres platted in 1875 by General

O'Neill. Thirteen men, two women and five children lived one season in a little sod house erected, and facetiously called the "Grand Central Hotel." In the first skirmish for the county seat, Paddock won. This settlement, on the Niobrara, was started by Mr. Wm. T. Berry, in 1874. Its name was at first Troy, but changed to honor United States Senator A. S. Paddock. Atkinson, twenty miles from O'Neill was started in 1875. Upon resubmission in 1879, O'Neill won the county seat. When the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, now the Northwestern system, was built through in 1879 and 1880, towns sprang up along its line. The early railroad stations were, Ewing, Inman, O'Neill, Emmet, Atkinson, and Stuart, all thriving now, forty years later. Since then, Stafford appeared on the railroad near where old Hart was. Chambers, an inland town in the south part of the county, while a long distance from a railroad, is considered one of the greatest hay-producing and shipping points in the country, and were it on a railroad would produce a wonderful traffic. In 1920, under the recent Federal Transportation Act of 1920, an effort is being made to secure an extension of the Greeley-Ericson branch of the Burlington to Chambers. Some inland towns or trading or postal points of forty years ago are still actively on the map of Holt County. Among these are Deloit, Little, Swan Lake, or Swan, but the majority are no longer active. Many of those which seem to have passed from the scene were Cache Creek, Lambert, Brewer, Apple Creek, Mineola, Hainesville, Turner, Blackbird, Clifton Grove, Greeley, Saratoga, Cleveland, Menla, Laura, Grand Rapids. But Holt County, even now in 1920 has many inland points, among which are Tonic, Bliss, Amelia, Martha, Harold, Inez, Middlebranch, Tonawanda, Slocum, Agee, Staro, Dorsey, Scottville, Redbird, Meek, Leonie, Joy, Ray, Phenix, Badger, Dustin, Celia, Catalpa, Scottville and Paddock still located near the Niobrara. Page and Emporia sprang up as stations on the Burlington-Sioux City-O'Neill branch as it comes into the eastern part of the county.

HOOVER COUNTY

This county is one of the sandhill counties bordering on the south edge of Cherry County. Before the advent of the Burlington line to Wyoming and Billings, Montana, it was a part of the great Unorganized Territory, or Big Sioux County. Its organization finally took place about 1889. Forty-five years ago there were no settlements in this county. It has only built up four stations along the Burlington line, its only railroad. The main town, as well as being county seat, is Mullen. This has developed into a thriving town, being the greatest shipping center along the Burlington between Hyannis and Broken Bow. The other towns on the railroad are Weir, Hecla, and Kelso. The inland points in the southern portion of the county, over toward the Dismal River, are Eclipse, Moore Dunwell, Donald and Summit.

HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County is situated in the fertile Loup Valley, first county north of Hall. It contains an area of 561 square miles. James N. Paul, who was then surveying, and for several years had been in company with Major Frank North, and who for sixteen years, from 1901 to 1917, was District Judge in the Central and Western Nebraska Eleventh Judicial District, discovered the site of St. Paul.

This was in 1870 when he made the observation that it was a good site for a town. In December, 1870, his brother, N. J. Paul and the Danish vice-consul, Mr. Moeller visited this valley, and started a party up there on January 9, 1871. The point selected was the junction of the North and South Loup rivers, and near this point, the town of St. Paul, named after the Paul family, sprang up. An Act of the Legislature in 1871 formed the establishment of Howard and Boone counties. The first homestead claim in the county was taken by J. E. Cady on March 11, 1871. In May, 1871, the county seat was located at the proposed site of St. Paul. There had been a Danish settlement made near Oak Creek, and in the fall of 1871, C. O. Schlytern bought several sections of land from the Union Pacific Railroad and made preparations to start the town of Dannebrog, and the town was really laid out in 1873. A postoffice was started that year at Warsaw. St. Libory is a small station and town that built up on the Union Pacific road midway between St. Paul and Grand Island. Other points in the county before the railroad extended north from St. Paul were Loup Fork and Kelso in the southwest corner; Wola, Dannevirke and Cotesfield in the northwest corner; Fairdale, Glasgow in the northeast and Gage Valley in the east central. When the Union Pacific extended its line to North Loup and then to Ord, Cotesfield became a railroad station, and Elba sprang up. The branches built by the Burlington and Union Pacific from St. Paul to Loup City gave railroad facilities to Dannebrog, Nysted, Kenyon Spur and Boelus, the latter a town which had become noted for the power plant projected there on the Loup River, which furnishes electric power for many towns, and to the north to Warsaw and Farwell. The line from Palmer to Greeley touches Cushing, a town in the northeast corner of the county.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County was mapped out by the Territorial Legislature, January 26, 1856, under the name of Jones County. At the same time, the adjoining county on the west, now Thayer County, received the name of Jefferson. Jefferson made its formal organization in 1864 with its first election at Big Sandy. February 18, 1867, "an Act to enlarge Jefferson County" passed the Legislature which united Jones to Jefferson. This gave the county an acreage of 706,560 which the Legislature of 1871 considered too large and it decreed division. The former Jones County in the divorcement retained the name of Jefferson, and incidentally the county records, while the former Jefferson assumed the name of Nebraska's statesman, who was both United States Senator and Governor, Thayer. From 1857 to 1864 Jefferson had been attached to Gage County for judicial and revenue purposes. The Otoe Indian Reservation for awhile cut off twenty-four square miles from the southeast corner, but that was about the first reservation land sold. The county as finally defined contains 578 square miles. Its original settlement dates back to 1854 when Jack Nye settled in this county, for a residence that proved brief, as did those attempted in 1855-6. Settlements from then until 1860 were spasmodic and some of them short-lived. In 1864 when the county began its actual organization, there were only thirty-five settlers established therein. Fairbury, the county seat, was laid out in 1869 and its establishment more fully treated in the town section of this work. Steele City was laid out in 1873 by Mr. D. M. Baker and Robert Crinklow and named in honor of D. M. Steele, president of

the St. Joe & Western Railway. Endicott, at the crossing of the Burlington and St. Joe lines, was laid out in 1881. The advent of Reynolds was the fall of the railroadless Rose Creek which had been established in 1863. In 1881 when the Burlington line passed about a mile from it, the new town of Reynolds sprang up. Diller, on the B. & M., was laid out in 1881 on the Otoe Reservation lands, and named for one of the earliest settlers in the county, H. H. Diller. Meridian was commenced in 1865 but was irretrievably injured in 1872 by the St. Joe & Western passing two miles from it. Plymouth was started before the railroad arrived. Rock Creek, Georgetown, Bower, Jefferson, Little Sandy and East Meridian were towns forty years ago, but without railroads. Now, the St. Joe and Grand Island, successor to the Old St. Joe & Western has Steele City, Endicott, Fairbury, K. C. & O. Junction and Powel. The Rock Island main line from Chicago to Denver passing through Fairbury also touches Plymouth, Jansen, and Thompson. The B. & M. into Fairbury also touches Helvey and Daykin. A C. B. & Q. branch across the southern edge of the county has as stations Reynolds, Kesterson, Endicott, Shea and Diller. Bower is left without a railroad.

JOHNSON COUNTY

This county located directly west of Nemaha, the only county between it and the Missouri River and north of Pawnee, the only county between it and the Kansas line. It was named in honor of Gen. R. M. Johnson, of the United States Army, and was created by an Act of the first Territorial Legislature, March 2, 1855, and formally organized in the fall of 1856. The first permanent settlers, James Riggles and Isaac Irwin, both natives of Indiana, settled three miles southeast of Tecumseh, early in the spring of 1856. They were soon followed by a goodly list of brave pioneers. The county seat was located at Tecumseh, February 13, 1857. The town of Tecumseh, in the central part of the county, was first located and surveyed in 1856, and christened "Frances" after the wife of Gen. R. M. Johnson, but later changed to Tecumseh, the name of the famous Indian warrior, who is supposed to have been killed in battle by General Johnson. Twelve miles northwest of Tecumseh, the town of Sterling was laid out and platted in 1870 after the survey of the Atchison & Nebraska railroad. Elk Creek, on the same line, was surveyed in 1873. Smartville was another early station on this line. Helena, an early town in the county, laid out in 1867, was left deserted in a few years after the railroad missed it by six miles. Inland points in the county forty years ago were Crab Orchard and Vesta, which the railroad, C. B. & Q. line, reached in time and are still flourishing. This line later brought Graf into existence. A line of the Missouri Pacific cutting across the northeast corner of the county caused the town of Cook to come to life. Spring Creek, and Latrobe were formerly thriving postoffices.

KEARNEY COUNTY

Kearney County is one county removed from the Kansas line, with Franklin to the south, and the Platte River to the north side. It has an area of 516 square miles. It can date its active history back farther than any other central or western Nebraska County, starting with the establishment of Old Fort Kearney, within its borders, when that post was transferred from the site of future Nebraska

City to the troublesome scenes of the Platte River banks. A fort on the Nebraska section of the Overland trail was considered necessary, and thus Kearney County antedates its neighbors by a good margin. This fort has an interesting history. After examining sites near Aurora, and Lone Tree, later Central City, in Merrick County, and selecting the site the first fort was built on in this county, and having it flooded, another site was chosen and the post, at first called Fort Childs, in honor of Captain Childs, the commanding and locating officer. His successor, in February, 1849, was Major Rupp. Succeeding commanders were Colonel Chittenden, by which time the fort was called Fort Kearney "Oregon Trail" and by 1854 as "Fort Kearney, Nebraska Territory"; Phil Kearny, for whom it took its final name, and then General Harney commanded. Then came Major Morris, Colonel May, Captain McGowan, Colonel Bachus, Colonel Miles, then Colonel Alexander, Captain Fisher, Colonel Wood, Colonel Livingstone, then Colonel Wood again, Colonel Carington, then the First Nebraska troops under Colonel Baumer, then Maj. T. J. Majors, later contingent congressman-elect. Then as subsequent commanders, Captain Ladd, General Wessels, Lieutenant Dibble, Major Dallas, General Gibbon, Lieutenant Foulk, Colonel Ransom, Major Sinclair, Captain Fenton, and Captain Pollack, who was in command of the post when it was abandoned in 1871. Central City, about two miles from the fort, was projected in 1858, by speculators from St. Joseph, Mo. About the same time, Doctor Ransom, Dr. C. A. Henry, John Young, J. E. Boyd, Loran Miller and others, from Omaha, laid out Kearney City. In 1860 this place was designated as county seat. It so flourished that at one early election it cast 300 votes. Valley City was another early town in this county, but it did not last, as neither did Jacksonville. Centoria was another dream city of this county, missed by the railroad and disappeared, and Mirage proved true to its name. Eaton, Osco and Fredericksburg did not survive all these years. Keene, there forty years or so ago, was reached by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy in time, so it is still flourishing. Heartwell has built up on this same line, that incidentally runs through Minden. Lowell, on the Hastings-Kearney branch of the Burlington, was laid out in 1872, and has been a famous town in central Nebraska. It is another of the children of D. N. Smith's locating and promoting abilities. Its United States land office was removed to Bloomington, and in 1874 it started a decline almost as rapid as its sensational rise. Its final blow was struck in 1878 when Minden was projected, and this town soon took the county seat, and has made an excellent little city. Newark was settled in 1878, is first station west of Lowell and near the old fort. It is still a good town. Minden is on the Burlington main line, from Hastings to Holdrege, and so is Axtell, another good town, built up after Minden started. Another later town is Wilcox in the very southwest corner of the county.

KEITH COUNTY

Keith County lies in the western part of the state, just west of Lincoln County, and east of Deuel County. It has an area of 1,068 square miles. The first permanent settlements accompanied the building of the Union Pacific main line through the county in 1867. It had a prolific Indian history during that period and on into the early '70s. It was organized in 1873. Its county seat, Ogallala, for a long time the only town in the county, became famous as a cattle center. This

point became the headquarters for an immense cattle trade and vast herds from Texas were brought up here for pasture purposes and distribution to ranches. Alkali, Roscoe and Brule are railroad stations that developed along about the '70s. Paxton, Korty and Plano later developed along the Union Pacific line. When the Union Pacific built its branch up to Scottsbluff country a group of Keith County towns sprang up, including Sarben, Nevens, Keystone, Martin, Lemoyne, Belmar and Ruthton. Those towns do not depend on Keith County alone for trading support, but govern much of McPherson and Arthur county trade to the north. A few inland settlements along the north edge of the county on the very southern edge of the "sandhills" are Spear, on the Lincoln County line, Orin, Glenrose, Triangle, Bertha, and Rice.

KEYA PAHA COUNTY

This county lies along the Niobrara River, on the northern boundary of the state. It has an area of 775 square miles, and lies north of Brown and Rock counties. It is an inland county, separated by the Niobrara River from Brown and Rock counties, and without railroad facilities. It was taken off from Brown County in 1884, right after the organization of Brown County. Its county seat is Springview, and a few other postoffices and small trading centers have developed, including Norden, Marleank, Enterprise, Carns, Pinecamp, Simpson, Mills, Brocksburg and Jamison. Its earlier history is merged into that of Brown County, the predecessor of Sioux, and as a part of the great unorganized territory.

KIMBALL COUNTY

The separate history of Kimball County as a county begins perhaps with its organization, following its separation from the mother county, Cheyenne, after the election of November 6, 1888. Antelopeville, which was the original name of the town of Kimball, flourished soon after the Union Pacific Railroad went through, in the late '60s. Adams and Bushnell came in early. Jacinto, Dix, Owasco, Kimball, Oliver, Bushnell and Smeed are now the stations along the Union Pacific line through this county. Troy, Beacon, Hodges, Bethel, Gifford, and Dye are inland points.

This is the very southwest corner county, in the Panhandle section of the state. Pinebluffs, Wyoming, is just across the state-county line. In the early history of Kimball County, John T. Clarkson purchased practically all of the lands from the Union Pacific Railroad on the south side, and Bay State Live Stock Co., the land on the north. In the middle '80s, settlers began to come in and on the second wave of settlement of the county, the agricultural period set in. By 1888, when the county was separated Antelopeville revived, its name was changed to Kimball, in honor of an officer of the Union Pacific, and it has steadily developed into as substantial a town of its size as can be found anywhere.

KNOX COUNTY

This county is on the northern border of the state, the fourth county from the east end, and first county east of Holt, and has an area of 1,114 square miles. It was organized by the Territorial Legislature in 1857, under the name of L'Eau-qui-

Court, the French name for Nebraska River. In 1867 its name was changed to Emmett, and in 1873 to Knox.

June 7, 1856, Dr. B. Y. Shelley and R. R. Cowan came to the present site of Niobrara and located a town. A town company, called the L'Eau-qui-Court Company, erected some houses and built a fort for the protection of the settlers. Indian annoyances and depredations were very frequent and troublesome during the late '50s. The first company failed, and in 1860, the Niobrara Company took the helm. Three other settlements were formed in this county very early. Frankfort settled in 1856 by S. Loeber, and the town laid out in 1857. Breckenridge, later the Santee Agency, was located in 1857 and the Running Water settlement was laid out in 1858. Later the Santee Indians broke up this settlement, and in 1870 Pishelville was started by a Chicago colony in this vicinity. Immigration in substantial numbers did not come to this county until after 1869 or 1870. Indian depredations again became so troublesome in 1871 that help was sent from Fort Randall on the Missouri River to protect the settlers. The Santee Indian reservation of 115,200 was placed in the northern part of this county, bordering on the Missouri River.

In the early '70s a new crop of towns started up in this county. Creighton was promoted in 1871, first by the "Bruce Colony," organized in Omaha. The first house and first store were erected by J. A. Bruce, an officer of this company. Samuel D. Brooks located the first claim where Bazile Mills sprang up shortly after, but the town was laid out in 1878. The postoffice at Millersboro was established in 1874. In the early '80s only Creighton and Bazile Mills were railroad towns, and the other towns named were inland points. Verdigris Bridge was a postoffice located on the creek of that name, about 1879, though settlement had been made there three years before; Welsh postoffice came from a settlement made in 1870; Kemma was established as a postoffice in 1875; Knoxville was established as a postoffice June 20, 1879, twenty-four miles southwest of Niobrara; Sparta postoffice was opened in 1880, about twelve miles south of Niobrara; Armstrong, twelve miles from Niobrara and three miles from that river was settled by Bohemians in 1871, and the postoffice established July 1, 1880, named after an early settler of that vicinity, J. L. Armstrong, upon suggestion of E. K. Valentine. Venus postoffice was established August 9, 1880, in the southwest corner of the county; Walnut Grove in the western part of the county was established on December 1, 1875; Blyville, established in 1873 in the northeast part of the county, was named after George W. Bly, one of the old settlers of that vicinity. Plum Valley was settled in 1875 and established as a postoffice in 1878; located on Bazile Creek in the center part of the county; Reidsville, about six miles northwest of Creighton, was established as a postoffice in 1875; Dukeville, fourteen miles west of Niobrara on that river, was established as a postoffice in 1876; Verdigris Valley postoffice was established in 1876; Middle Branch in 1880. Other early postoffices established were Sweden, in 1882; Anawan in 1882; and Herrick, Secret Grove, Millerboro, and Plum Valley. The extension of the Northwestern line to Winner, S. D., allowed other Knox County towns to gain railroad facilities, among these being Winnotoon, Verdigris, Niobrara and Verdel. In the southeastern corner the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha branch comes through Wausa and up to Bloomfield. Center, the county seat of the county now, is an inland town. Other inland towns are Venus, Mars, Millerboro, Bazile Mills, a mile or two off the track now;

Morrillville, Sparta, Addison, Weigand, Santee, Pishelville, Knox, Watson, Dukeville, Armstrong, Walnut, Herrick and Le Blanc.

LANCASTER COUNTY

This is the second county in the state in general importance and population, ranking next to Douglas. It contains as its county seat, the capital city, Lincoln. It was organized in the fall of 1859, and previous to that had been attached for revenue, judicial and election purposes. It is located in the southeastern part of the state, with only Cass County between it and the Missouri River and only Gage between it and the Kansas line. The first permanent settlers are reputed to have been John D. Prey and his sons, John W. David, and William, with his wife and daughter, who, early in 1857, located at Olathe, on Salt Creek, about fifteen miles south of Lincoln. Several pioneers had penetrated the borders of this county in 1856, but no permanent settlement was made until the next year. The settlement of the county from 1859 to 1863 was very slow. The records of the elections of 1860-1-2 show no apparent increase in numbers. But after homesteading opened up in January, 1863, the settlement started with a rush. In the summer of 1863, Elder J. M. Young and others, representing a colony, selected a townsite which embraced the old town of Lancaster, then destitute of inhabitants and belonging to the Government. In the Indian scare of 1864, many settlers left. In 1865, Ezra Tuttle, lawyer, settled on Oak Creek and in 1866, S. B. Galey and S. B. Pound, settled at Lancaster. From the discovery of the salt basins, near Lincoln, in 1856 by government surveyors, they attracted much attention. Capt. W. T. Donavan, in 1857, representing the "Crescent Company," organized at Plattsmouth, pitched his tent there, but both Donavan and representatives of another company soon abandoned the enterprise. In 1862, John S. Gregory, Jr., laid siege to the basin, and a couple years later had some vats erected and enough salt made to supply the settlers and overland travel. A postoffice, called "Gregory's Basin," started there in 1863. Meanwhile J. Sterling Morton and Colonel Manners, one of the original discovering surveyors had been getting claims to this region. Soon after the state was organized under its state government, the governor leased the big basin for twenty years to A. C. Tichenor and J. T. Green, and they expended about twelve thousand dollars on it. Then Messrs. Morton and Manners got their claim into the courts by writ of ejection, and stopped the work. After years of litigation, the state made good its claim to the land, and her title was made perfect by a decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1875. From 1874 to 1884 Charles T. Bullock maintained the plant with very slight success. In 1885 Jesse T. Green attempted to revive the works, and various attempts were made after that. In 1916, the Traction Company at Lincoln leased the site for a pleasure resort, intending to build up a resort, Capital Beach, which had already been started there on a rather extensive scale. In recent years, considerable sand and gravel have been taken from this locality. The question of the state reserving saline deposits is by no means dead, and was submitted in the new constitution voted upon September 21, 1920. The establishment of Lincoln has been detailed in another chapter, on location of towns; John S. Green, the first settler at Waverly located there in 1869 and the town was started in 1871 with a postoffice, the first store being erected there in 1874. Firth was organized

as a village in 1879, named after Superintendent Firth of the Atchison & Nebraska Railroad, on which line it was located; Roca, "founded on a rock" as its name indicates, was started about that time, on the same railroad line and in its early days developed extensive quarrying interests. Hickman and Saltillo were started early on that same line. Havelock, the location of the largest Burlington shops on the western end of that great system, was started in 1891, though settlements had been made in that vicinity before then, by Charles A. Holderness, building the first house in the town. It was incorporated on May 6, 1893. The railroad station from Denton had been moved over, and the shops planned here by 1890. University Place started in 1889, synonymous with the location of Nebraska Wesleyan University there. Bethany and Cotner University started together in 1888. These last three towns are suburbs of the City of Lincoln now, all within six miles of the business section of that city. In 1889, the educational institution of the Seventh Day Adventists for a great many states was located at a site that developed into another suburb of Lincoln, so Union College and College View grew up together. This suburb also has a famous sanitarium built up by the same people, and an international branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Association under similar auspices. At the time the Midland Pacific Railroad came through, a town was laid out in 1871 and named Bennett, in honor of one of the officers of that road, John Bennett. Hickman, heretofore mentioned, was platted in 1872. Cheney was platted in 1874; and other towns which sprang up in this county were platted or started in the following years; Davey, 1886; Denton, 1871; Hallam, 1892; Holland, about 1886; Kramer, in March, 1888; Malcolm, October 13, 1877; Emerald; Martel, more recently Panama, located in the late '70s; Prairie Home, 1891; Princeton, July 8, 1886; Raymond, laid out by T. P. and Lioina E. Kennard, and plat filed on April 19, 1880; Saltillo, laid out in September, 1872; Sprague, plat recorded May 3, 1888; Agnew, 1889; Walton, later; Jamaica, in 1885; Woodlawn, plat filed March 29, 1878. Other stations in the county, some of which have no postoffice nor trading center of consequence left any longer, are Arbor, Berks, Burnham, Cobb, Hawthorne, Pella, Rokeby, Carleton, Hanlon. Older points that have practically disappeared from active participation in the county's affairs were: Buda, Olive Branch, Centerville, Loyal Hill, Crounse, Millville, Stevens postoffice, Newton, and Camp Creek. Enough important events in Lancaster County's history have been omitted in this short sketch to fill a separate volume, but as with Douglas, and some other important counties, many of these things will appear in the surveys of other subjects and phases of Nebraska's growth.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County is located in the western part of the state, practically 300 miles west of Omaha, and has an area of 2,536 square miles, being excelled in size only by Cherry and Custer. The first building in the county was probably erected by a Frenchman in 1844, but was abandoned in 1848, after four years' use as a trading ranch. In 1852, a man named Brady settled on the south side of the island bearing his name, and he is supposed to have been killed by Indians in the following year. In 1858, the first permanent settlement of the county was made at Cottonwood Springs, and a building erected that fall by Boyer & Robideau.

with I. P. Boyer in charge. Located at a spring, surrounded by big cottonwood trees, it received that name. In the same year, another trading ranch sprang up at O'Fallon's Bluff, on the south side of the river and some miles above the town of O'Fallons. Fort McPherson was established in 1863 by the Government at this Cottonwood Springs settlement. And it was placed there none too soon, for the Indian troubles of 1864 came right on. The county was first organized in November, 1860, with Cottonwood Springs as the county seat, and its first name "Shorter" was soon changed to Lincoln. During November, 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad was completed to North Platte, and that town was laid out by Gen. G. M. Dodge for the railroad company. It grew so rapidly, that it was made a military post and a garrison placed there. Machine shops and roundhouses were started there in 1867. In 1872, the Grand Duke Alexis came to North Platte and from there started out on an extensive buffalo hunt, and a very successful venture it was, with Buffalo Bill acting as guide. Other stations laid out along the Union Pacific in the first fifteen years after its arrival in 1867 were: Warren, at the east county line; Brady Island; Maxwell, at first McPherson Postoffice; just northwest of old Cottonwood Springs and north across the Platte River from the old Fort McPherson military reservation; Gannett, and Nichols, with, of course, North Platte and O'Fallons already mentioned. Gasline, Peckham and Fox Creek were about the only inland points forty years ago. Now the Burlington line through the southern part of the county has developed several stations, Ingham, Wellfleet, Somerset, Dickens, and Wallace. Additional stations built up along the Union Pacific in recent decades are Vroman, Hindrey, Keith, Pallas, Birdwood, Hershey, a very prosperous little town, an active candidate in substantial anticipation of a beet sugar factory within the next few years; Sutherland, Glenburne, and more modern inland points are Denmark, Arna, Kilmer, Myrtle, and Willard.

LOGAN COUNTY

Logan County took separate shape out of the great unorganized portion of the southern sandhills, attached for all commercial and practical purposes to Lincoln County for many years, along about 1885. Arnold, an inland village in the very western edge of Custer County was the only settlement in that region for many years. Not until 1911, did Logan County get a railroad, and then its most metropolitan town, Stapleton, promoted by the railroad, sprang up like a mushroom. But an inland town, about two miles away, and left a mile or mile and half off the railroad, Gandy, had developed many years before and captured the county seat upon the real organization of the county, and has so far held it against the strenuous efforts of Stapleton. Logan is the only other railroad station in the county, though Gandy now has a depot and busses meet the trains. Kirsch, Ford and Wagner are inland points. The county is typically a sandhill county. It has 573 square miles in area.

LOUP COUNTY

This county lies north of Custer County, and is in the "Sandhill" region, and a typically sandhill county. Loup County was settled in 1874. The first settlers to trail the Loup beyond the neighboring Garfield County settlements were Rodney P. Alger, John R. Goff, D. L. Bowen, B. J. Harvey, A. M. Gurnsey and Wm.

Burns and their families. In the spring of 1875 an Indian scare ensued, and a stockade was erected on the Alger farm and called "Fort Rodney." Fort Hartsuff over in Garfield County soon quieted the settlers through the fear it gave the Indians and the security it gave the settlers. In the winter of 1876-77, A. M. Gurnsey succeeded in getting a postoffice established which was named Kent. Grand Island, about one hundred miles to the south, was in those days the nearest railroad connection. The first general store was opened at Kent in 1880 and everything hauled from St. Paul, then the terminus of the Union Pacific. Up to this time, Loup City was part of the unorganized country, and in 1883 an organization was effected. Kent, in the very southeast corner of the county, lay too far east to land the county seat, but Taylor postoffice, Almeria and Clark's Point eagerly sought the plum. None of these places had been platted, but all figured they only needed to land the county seat and the town would spring up. Taylor won out by only two votes over Almeria, and this practically meant the finish of Kent. Taylor was staked off on a farm belonging to and adjoining the homestead of Joseph Rusho. Almeria, where G. W. Sthrol and Fred Hoellworth opened a store managed to hold her own, and is now a small settlement, with nothing much more than a store and garage. Kent dwindled away until it has practically disappeared. The county is not touched by any railroad line and all of the settlements are inland points. Cooleyton, Moulton, Ferguson, Calamus, and Gracie are other points in this county in recent years.

M'PHERSON COUNTY

This county like its neighbor to the east, Logan, is a typically sandhill county, and until its organization was provided for in 1887 was a part of a great unorganized sandhill country, but for all practical purposes, an annex to Lincoln County. It has an area of 863 square miles, and is an inland county. It lies between the Burlington line, that goes through Mullen, and the Union Pacific through Lincoln County, but the main source of supply is North Platte and other Lincoln County towns. Its county seat is a small town, Tryon, and other points in the county are Mayflower, Valyrang, Lilac, Omega, Ringgold, Nesbit, Brighton, and Ney. Arthur County was separated in 1913 and took away the west end of McPherson County. Its activities are ranching and some small crop raising in the valleys and extensive hay raising.

MADISON COUNTY

This county of 576 square miles in area, is the fourth county west of the Missouri River and third county south of northern boundary of the state. The first settlers, Herman Braasch and Frederick Wagner, from Jefferson County, Wisconsin, came on September 15, 1865. Upon their recommendation twenty-four families started from the Wisconsin home, and arrived at the present site of Norfolk in July, 1866. The county was organized in December, 1867, but the initial election was in January, 1868. The pioneer towns of the county, of which the establishment and growth of Norfolk, the metropolis of the county, has elsewhere been treated, in the years of their location or platting were, Norfolk, incorporated in 1881, but its postoffice was first established in 1869. Madison was settled in 1868, established as a postoffice in 1871, and made the county seat in 1875, and still holds that honor,

despite the hunger Norfolk has displayed for this plum. Battle Creek was established in 1884; Blakeley postoffice, in 1880; Warren postoffice is in the northwest part of the county; Emerick postoffice near the head of Battle Creek in the western part of the county was established in 1873; Newman Grove is in the extreme southwestern part of the county, and although settled sometime before, was established as a postoffice in 1874; Munson, Clarion, Kalamazoo, Gates, Blakeley, Dry Creek, and Deer Creek were other early points in this county.

The railroad stations in 1920 in this county are: Chicago & Northwestern branch from Norfolk north, Norfolk and Norfolk Junction; Union Pacific from Columbus to Norfolk; Madison, Enola, Warnerville and Norfolk; Newman Grove on a Northwestern branch; on the Northwestern main line, Norfolk, Norfolk Junction, Kent Siding, Battle Creek, Meadow Grove and Tilden. Emerick and Kalamazoo are the principal inland points left in this county.

MERRICK COUNTY

This county lies on the Platte River, the fifth tier west of the Missouri River, and has 463 square miles in area. A stage station was established at Lone Tree station by the Western Stage Company in 1858. The lone tree from which this name was derived was a large cottonwood tree, a lone patriarch on the prairie and a welcome sight to tourist, trapper or traveler, but in 1865 in a wind storm one day it fell to the ground. James Vieregg made the first settlement in the county on September 15, 1869. The first building in Chapman was erected by Reed and Leake in 1871. The postoffice was opened soon after the railroad passed through. Clarks, named in honor of S. H. H. Clark, superintendent of the Union Pacific, was platted in 1866. Silver Creek was also platted in 1866, and the first building after the section house built in 1870. In 1875, the name of Central City was prefixed to what had been known as Lone Tree station. Cherry Hill and Lockwood were other early railroad stations. Early inland points were Conrad, Prairie Creek, Farmersville, Bethel, Merrick, Burlingame, Mentzel, and Bryant's Grove. Paddock, Thummel and Havens are more modern stations on the Union Pacific main line. Archer and the thriving town of Palmer are on the Burlington branch north from Central City to St. Paul and Greeley, Palmer being the junction point at which this branch forks into two others. Sunrise is an inland point on northern edge of the county.

MORRILL COUNTY

This county with some 1,417 square miles in area, was cut off from Cheyenne County in 1908. Its earlier history is mainly a part of the big mother county's story. It was named for Charles H. Morrill, who had contributed so much to the support of agricultural growth of this state. The main town for many years and county seat, Bridgeport, started in 1899, when the Burlington line from Alliance to Sidney and Denver went through. It rapidly developed into a town of importance. The town of Bayard first flourished on the old location, settled by W. P. Devault, who laid it out with E. M. Stearns of Loup City and a neighbor, Wm. Peters. A small community grew up, even though it was fifty miles from the nearest railroad. In 1898, Gering, Bayard and Oshkosh were the only places claiming the distinction of being towns in the whole North Platte Valley. When the Alliance-

Guernsey branch, turning westward at Northport, came up the valley in 1900, the town was moved bodily over to a new location on the railroad line. The incorporation of the new town was had in November, 1900. The county was formed separately in 1909, after the authorizing election in 1908. Other towns, stations and postoffices which have sprung up in this county are, on the Union Pacific line, Kuhn, Finley, Broadwater, Kelly, Northport, and on the Burlington-Guernsey branch from Bridgeport west; Atkins, Yockey, and of course, Bayard, heretofore mentioned. Chimney Rock is the only station on the Union Pacific branch west from Bridgeport to Haig. On the Burlington line north and south through the county, are Bonner, Angora, Vance, Alden, Simla. Inland points in this county are Redington in the southwest corner; Collyer and Silverhorn in the southeast corner; Eastwood and Hickory in the east part, Clemano, Lightner, Lynn, and Goodstreak in the north part.

NANCE COUNTY

Nance County is in the central part of the state, the fifth county west of the Missouri River. Its first settlement was in 1857 by a band of Mormons, of some one hundred families, and they established Genoa. In 1862, the Government surveyed the territory comprising this county and confirmed it in treaty to the Pawnee Indians for a reservation. In 1875, the Pawnees were removed to Indian Territory, these lands were appraised and sold, and the county opened for settlement in earnest. The organization of the county and its first election took place in 1879. The foundation, platting and incorporation of its town occurred. Randall Fuller brought his herds into the county before the sale of the reserve lands, and recorded the plat for Fullerton in 1879, and it was designated by Governor Nance as the temporary county seat. Fullerton has been a town so fortunate as to secure one of the most beautiful locations in the state. Genoa was maintained as a postoffice during the reservation days, and after the reservation was abandoned rapidly built up as a town, and one of the principal Indian schools of the country is located at this place. Neoma, Tekousha, Red Wing, Westgood were inland points that rapidly appeared after the reservation left. Railroad towns in the county now are Genoa, Kent, Merchiston, Fullerton, and Belgrade.

NEMAHA COUNTY

This county, as Forney County, was one of the original eight counties. In the chapter on the order of organization of the towns, the establishment of early towns in the county, Brownville, Nemaha City, Peru, St. Deroin and Hillsdale was discussed. The modern county seat of this county is Auburn. In fact, Auburn is a sort of "twin city." North Auburn was platted in 1868; and South Auburn was laid out in 1881, first named Calvert in honor of T. E. Calvert, of the railroad corporation, to whom it really owed its foundation. The dates of establishment, or platting of towns in this county, were: Brownville, 1854; Nemaha City, 1854; St. Deroin, 1853; Carson, 1882; London, incorporated 1858; Peru, 1857; Brock, which since its first settlement in 1854 has had the various names of Dayton, Howard, Clinton, Podunk and Brock, the last since 1882. Aspinwall, first settled by Louis Neal, a half breed in 1853; and postoffice established in 1860; Johnson, started in 1869; Clifton where settlement was made in 1864; Febing, 1856; Bedford,

platted in 1882; Glen Rock, surveyed in 1857; St. Frederick in 1858; Hillsdale, in 1866; San Francisco, soon after 1854 but long since abandoned. Grant, Locust Grade, and Bratton were other early points. The towns now thriving in this county, as railroad stations and good trading centers are: Aspinwall, Nemaha, Brownville, Wood Siding, Peru, on the Burlington; Howe, Auburn, Auburn Junction, Glen Rock and Brock on the Missouri Pacific; Bracken, South Auburn, Quarry, Rohrs, Johnson, on the east and west line of the Missouri Pacific through the county, branching off at Nemaha. Eden, St. Deroin, and London are inland points, and North Auburn and Julian are on the B. & M. line from Auburn to Nebraska City.

NUCKOLLS COUNTY

Nuckolls is situated in the southern tier of counties, sixth to the west from the Missouri River, and has an area of 579 square miles. Settlements were attempted in this county in 1858, about the time Jefferson and Thayer first were reached. The Mormons went through in 1858 and blazed a trail through the county. In 1859 the Pony Express started over this road and it became a section of the famous Overland Trail. After the war and the Indian troubles of the late '60s, settlement began in 1870 to come to this county in a permanent manner. Superior, the largest town in the county and an important railroad center, was surveyed in 1875, but village organization was not perfected until 1879. Nelson, on land first owned by C. N. Wheeler and named for him, surveyed in 1872, was chosen in 1873 as the county seat. The county was given legal status by legislative action in 1871. Hardy was laid out in 1880. Elkton, Henrietta, Spring Valley, Beachamville, Ox Bow, Oak, Nora and St. Stephen were early postoffice or trading points in this county.

Now the stations on the B. & M. east and west through the county are Hardy, Mill Spur, Superior Junction, Superior, and Bostwick. On the North-western line from Seward into Superior, they are Oak, Nora and Cadams; on the line from Edgar to Superior through the county are Angus, Nelson, Smyrna, to Superior; on the Missouri Pacific from the north to Superior are, Lawrence, Mount Clare, Abdal. On cross lines east and west are Ruskin and Sedan.

OTOE COUNTY

Otoe County is located on the Missouri River, in southeastern part of the state with two counties yet to the south, and has an area of 606 square miles. The first settlement and the establishment of the old Fort Kearney, and the beginnings of Nebraska City, Syracuse in 1869 and 1870; and some of the other early towns in this county have been touched upon heretofore. Dunbar, first started and known as Wilson for about ten years, succeeded the old Wilson ranch stage station. Unadilla was laid out theretofore, but nothing done in the way of building until 1872; Wyoming was laid out and started in 1855. Other early towns were laid out, platted or started in the following years: Camp Creek, 1857; Talmage, laid off in 1881, and named in honor of a distinguished railroad official; Solon, in 1873; Hendricks, Minersville, Barney, Delaware, Edgan, Ela, Nursery

Hill, Paisley, Summitt, Talbott, most of which were places in name only. Northville and Burr Oak. Dover and Barney developed later.

Railroad towns in the county are now (1920), on the Missouri Pacific in this county: Talmage, Burr and Douglas; Paul and Nebraska City; Lorton, Dunbar and Berlin; this road running both north and south, and east and west in this county; as does the Burlington lines with the towns of Barney, Minersville, Nebraska City, Wyoming; Etherton, Dunbar, Turlington, Unadilla and Palmyra. This county has a rich fund of important history that cannot be touched upon in this short and inadequate sketch, but many of these points of interest will appear in the survey of the early development of other phases of Nebraska history.

PAWNEE COUNTY

This county is the first neighbor to the west of Richardson, the southeast corner county in the state. It has an area of 431 square miles. Its first settlement and its first towns have been elsewhere treated. Its organization in 1856 so closely followed the proclamation of the first eight counties, that it became one of the first ten counties established in the state. Cincinnati was started in 1857. Pawnee City was chosen as county seat, and laid out in 1857; in 1861 Table Rock received a postoffice, its settlement having been made in 1855 and its actual beginnings lay about 1857. Burchard was not founded until 1881. Other early towns and postoffices were Mission Creek, Steinauer, West Branch, New Home, Tip's Branch, Wolf Creek. On the Rock Island lines through this county, the towns now are Lewiston, Mayberry, Steinauer, Pawnee City and Dubois; on the Burlington, Table Rock, Pawnee City, Violet, Burchard, Armour, and on another line of road, Bookwalter, Tate; and Appleton on another branch.

PERKINS COUNTY

This county is in the western edge of Nebraska, and is the northernmost of the three counties that border onto the eastern Colorado state line. It has an area of 886 square miles. Its early history conforms to that of Keith County, from which it was set off shortly after the legislative authorization in 1887. It lies south of the Platte River, which flows through the southern edge of Keith County. Up until the time of its separation it had practically no settlement to speak of, and since then has developed several towns along the line of the Burlington Railroad which traverses the county east to west. These towns are Elsie, Madrid, Grant, the county seat, Brandon and Venango. Pearl and Phebe are about the only inland points.

PHELPS COUNTY

This county is well situated, on the high table-lands and upland prairies on the divide between the Platte River, which forms its northern boundary, and the Republican, which flows through its southern neighbor, Harlan County. Its organization was undertaken in 1873, and the county seat for the first few years located at Williamsburg, up near the Platte River in the northern edge of the county. In 1879 this was moved to Phelps Center. Other early towns in the

county that developed into at least the postoffice or trading center stage in its first ten years of separate life were, Rick Falls, Sacramento, Axelson, Hopeville, Oscar, Industry, Integrity, Highland, and Westmark. With the advent of the railroads, practically a new set of communities took the stage of operations in this county. The county seat of the county now is Holdrege, not only the leading town in this county, but an important railroad center and one of the most enterprising towns in the state of Nebraska. Funk, Loomis and Bertrand are other Burlington towns, with Sacramento and Atlanta also on this road. Williamsburg, Westmark, Holcomb and Haydon remain as inland points in this county.

PIERCE COUNTY

Pierce County is one tier south of the northern counties of the state. It has an area of 577 square miles. It was legislatively established in 1859, and actually organized in 1870, with the county seat laid out on specified land, that soon became the site of the town of Pierce. Its first settlement was made in 1866, by a portion of the German colony from Wisconsin, that had settled on the North Fork of the Elkhorn, a little above the present Norfolk, Madison County. Settlements started around Plainview in 1871 and the postoffice was established in April, 1872, as Roseville, in honor of Charles Rose, its first postmaster, but the name was changed in 1874 to Plainview. Settlement was made in 1872, but the postoffice of Colbergen started in 1880. Another early point in this county was Hadar, which with Pierce and Plainview were the stations on the Sioux City and Pacific line then. Upon a Burlington line, running east and west through the northern part of the county, later sprang up McLean, Osmond and Breslau, and this line gave Plainview a second railroad. Colbergen is still an inland point.

PLATTE COUNTY

Platte County lies on the north side of the Platte River and is the fourth county west of the Missouri River. Its early settlement by a hardy, courageous colony in 1856 and the establishment of Columbus and other early towns has heretofore been covered briefly. Its first organization was its separation from Dodge in 1855; Monroe County was created by the Legislature in August, 1857, and elections of officers held in 1858-9, but a petition extensively signed by the residents led the Legislature to consolidate Monroe and Platte counties, so Monroe was short-lived. Jackson, called Duncan, was started in 1871. The early towns along the line from Columbus to Norfolk were Platte Center, Humphrey, with Tarnov a later station, which are in 1920 very thriving towns; Lost Creek, Monroe and Westgood were early railroad stations also. A Northwestern line across the north side of the county supplies railroad facilities to Creston, gives Humphrey a second line; and cares for Cornica and Lindsay. Other early inland points were St. Mary, Nebo, Grant Prairie, Postville, Metz, Okay, Farrall, and Palestine Valley. Oconee has replaced Lost Creek at the point where the Norfolk branch leaves the Union Pacific main line, a few miles west of Columbus. Inland points in the county now are Boheet, Oldenbusch, Neboville, Woodburn, Rosenburg, Looking Glass, Postville, and St. Bernard.

RED WILLOW COUNTY

Red Willow County is the southernmost of the thirty-two original counties of the state. It was organized in 1871, and its settlement began in 1867. The first permanent settlement was in Hackberry precinct in 1867. The early settlers came to the site of Osceola in 1869, it was chosen as the county seat in 1870 and its present location, the geographical center of the county was selected and made a permanent site in October, 1871. Stromsburg was surveyed and laid out in 1872. Pleasant Home, Wayland, Cyclone, Redville, Thornton, Bellville and Conklin were early inland points, and Arcade, first station east of Osceola on the railroad. At this point, Shelby has built into a good town in later years. When the Union Pacific extended from Stromsburg on to Central City, the towns of Durant and Polk sprang up. The county has an area of 430 square miles, and is an especially prosperous and thrifty county.

Red Willow County of 720 square miles, is on the southern line of the state, with the Republican River traversing its entire length and Red Willow Creek joining about the center of the county. Its settlement began in 1871, and in November of that year a company was formed, with Royal Buck as president and managing agent, to locate a town and precinct on the Republican River, and named Red Willow. In 1873 the county was organized and given the same name. A town named Billingsville was started but did not really materialize. In May, 1873, the town of Indianola was laid out, by the Republican Valley Land Association, near Coon Creek. When it came to the location of a county seat the two settlements, one on Coon Creek and the older one on Red Willow Creek joined in a bitter contest. On election day, the noted locator, D. N. Smith, offered a bribe to the judges, but the voters refused to be bribed, and the contest ended on the election decision, but a contest ensued, with Indianola the early winner. Settlements came fast in the late '70s, and by 1880 the B. & M. Railroad had reached Indianola. In May, 1882, McCook was laid out by the Burlington people, of Lincoln Townsite Company, and designated as a division point, and plans laid for construction of shops, etc. In later years, McCook won the county seat away from Indianola, and also became the leading town of that part of the state. Fairview and Willow Grove were other railroad stations in early years. Van Wyck, Danbury, Hamburg, Lebanon, Valley Grange, Tyrone, and Vaillon were early inland points in the southern part of the county. Bartley and Perley have built up along the Burlington in later years. Lebanon, Danbury and Marion are on another line of the Burlington crossing the southeast corner of the county, and going into Kansas.

RED WILLOW COUNTY

Red Willow County is the southernmost of the thirty-two original counties of the state, and has an area of 720 square miles. Much of its early settlement and location of its first towns has heretofore been covered. It was one of the eight original counties, and its settlement predated the territorial government. Salem, Archer, Falls City, Rulo and Humboldt were heretofore discussed. Stella was laid out on land donated by Mr. J. T.

Clark, in 1881. Saint Stephen, Yankton, Winnebago, Geneva were flourishing villages in very early days of the county and long since abandoned. Angelo, Missouri, Wells Mills, Miles Ranch, Long Branch, Flowerdale, Highland, Barrow, and Williamsburg were villages inland from a railroad, having a post office, store, etc., some forty years ago. Rulo, Preston, Salem, Dawson and Humboldt were on the Burlington line, and Falls City and Elmore on the Missouri Pacific forty years ago. Verdon and Stella built up early in the '80s along the Missouri Pacific. Verdon is a junction between that line and a Burlington line up the river to Nebraska City, and Stella is north of Verdon on that line.

ROCK COUNTY

The early history of this county, which lies directly south of Keya Paha County, is embraced in that of Holt and Brown counties. It is a large county with 1,004 square miles of territory. It was formed as a county in 1888, and theretofore had not been very thickly settled. H. M. Uttley went up from Wisner to Long Pine with a steam saw and was the first settler there. Dennis Sullivan settled soon thereafter. A. N. Bassett settled on the creek three miles above. These settlements were probably a little west of the present Rock County line, but presage the opening of that locality. Bassett, the county seat, and Newport, which bears the reputation of being the largest small sized station in the country for hay shipments, were located and built up before the separate establishment of the county and soon after the railroad, Northwestern line, went through. Menla was the only point in the northern part of the county, forty years ago. Cuba, Mariaville, and Kirkwood are now in that part of the county, and inland points in the southern section of the county are Butka, Duff, Sybrant, Hammond, Seldon, Pouch, Sheeasta, and Thurman. This county is not given to very intensive cultivation, but is a great hay producing region.

SALINE COUNTY

While created in 1855, Saline County was organized in 1862. It lies directly west of the southern half of Lancaster County, and the Blue River flows through the eastern part of the county. It has an area of 513 square miles. The first permanent settlement was in 1858 when Gen. Victor Vitiquan located near the Fork of the Blue. Early settlers following very closely were E. Frank, W. Remington, C. Haynes, T. Stevens, J. Bickle, Tobias Caster, Wm. Stanton and James Johnson. Swan City, at the junction of Swan Creek with Turkey Creek, was the early county seat, after the first election in 1862. Wilber, the permanent county seat, was laid out in 1872; Crete, the metropolis of the county, was laid out in 1870, and failed to capture the county seat, though fifty years later, in 1920, it hasn't given up hope entirely. DeWitt began in 1872; Dorchester was laid out in 1871; as was also Friendville, now known as Friend, in the northwestern corner of the county. After the removal of the county seat from Swan City, that town dwindled away. In fact, the necessity of a county seat in the early years was slight, as the pockets of the officials were their office vaults usually. Various postoffices established early in the county's career included, Western, 1872; Pleasant Hill, which was made the county seat in 1871 and held it until 1878 when Wilber took it as a result of an election in 1877 in which it defeated Crete. Albany, Atlanta, Blue

Island, Danville, Fairview, Girard, Repose, Goldrinsey, Honesdale, Varna, Hornesdale, LeGrand, Lucieville, Mandana, North Fork, Saxon, Riceville and Tabor. The railroad towns in the county are now: Tobias, Western and Swanton in the southern part; DeWitt, Shestak, and Crete in the eastern edge; and Dorchester and Friend in the northern part of the county. Plato and Pleasant Hill are the principal inland points.

SARPY COUNTY

This is the smallest county in size in the state, of 240 square miles, and the oldest county in the state in settlement. The story of Bellevue, reaching back to 1810, of the posts, trading centers and Indian locations there have been covered in chapters heretofore. The story of Peter A. Sarpy for whom the county was named was therein touched upon, as was the settlement of its first towns. Papillion, the county seat, started in 1869; La Platte on the B. & M., was laid out in 1870; Sarpy Center was surveyed in 1875; Springfield came to life in 1881; Fairview early in the '60s, Xenia postoffice, and Saling's Grove community, not exactly towns, also very early; and Forest City, Plattford, Nasby were early inland points, and Gilmore an early railroad station. In later years, Chalco, Deerfield, Portal, Gretna, Avery, Fort Crook station, Pappio, and Meadow have built up along the railroad lines honeycombing this small county.

SAUNDERS COUNTY

Saunders County, first called Calhoun, until the unpopularity of the Federal Revenue Collector of that name caused its change to the honor of the last territorial Governor and early U. S. Senator, Alvin Saunders. In 1865, it was attached to Cass County for revenue, judicial and election purposes, and in 1866, its own organization was formed. It is located directly north of Lancaster and west of Douglas counties, and is 756 square miles in area. Joseph Stambaugh, in 1856, was the first settler in the county. Its early towns were started, as follows:—Wahoo, only a village of a few houses when it was made the county seat in 1873; Ashland, the oldest town in the county, held the county seat until 1873, but has grown to be an important town; Valparaiso, settled ten years prior to that, was incorporated in 1880; Alvin (Mead), Weston, Clear Creek, Crowder were early railroad stations; and inland postoffices or trading points in the county, some forty years ago, were Ithaca, Rose Hill, Ceresco, Bradford, Milton, Swedeburgh, Headland, Isla, Colon, Esteina, Sand Creek, Platteville, Clayton, Cedar Bluffs, Benton, Cedar Hill, Willow Creek, Rescue, Newton, Pilsen, Troy and Chaslaw. Railroad towns in the county are now (1920) on the Northwestern, Ceresco, Swedeburg, Wahoo, Colon, Cedar Bluffs and Platte River on one line, and Morsebluff and Linwood on another. The Burlington line cares for Rescue, Prague, Malmo, Wahoo, Ithaca and Memphis. The Union Pacific feeds Yutan, Mead, Wahoo, Weston, Touhy, and Valparaiso.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

Until the election of November 6, 1888, and the establishment thereafter separately of this county, its history is embraced in that of the great mother county, Chey-

enne. It is the western county in the state, of the North Platte River group. Even though so young, no county in the state approximates Scotts Bluff in its rapid gains in population, development of resources and material wealth. It is 723 square miles in area, the seat of the greatest irrigation activities in the state, and the wonder county of the state in the past decade. Twenty years ago, there was a broad prairie where now stands a city of some seven thousand inhabitants, Scottsbluff. This town did not start until the extension of the Guernsey branch of the Burlington, from Alliance and Bridgeport, and the foregoing sentence flashes the history of its rapid growth. Along this same line of railroad have built up a wonderful group of towns, which are not yet through growing by any means:—Minatare, Mitchell, Morrill and Henry, with Toohey, Covert, Snell and Bradley as smaller stations. Gering, which has been the county seat of the county since its organization and still holds that honor against the jealous and zealous desires of Scottsbluff, was the oldest town in the North Platte Valley, being a village of some proportions over twenty years ago. It was not until ten years ago that the railroad reached this town, when the Union Pacific branch came up the valley and Haig (ville), Melbeta, Brockhoff and McGrew also sprang up. Gering now has a beet sugar factory and is a prospering young city of over 2,500 inhabitants, a growth achieved mainly in the past ten years. With sugar factories at both Scottsbluff and Gering, and a factory building at Mitchell, and two proposed for Minatare, it is hard to foretell what another decade will show for this thriving county.

SEWARD COUNTY

Seward County is located in the Blue River Valley, just west of the northern part of Lancaster County, and has an area of 574 square miles. The first settlement in the county was made by Daniel Morgan and his three sons, who located a pre-emption claim in the fall of 1858. It was created by the Legislature in 1855, under the name of Greene, but the conduct of the Missouri Senator in the Civil war period brought that name into unpopularity and it was changed to that of the Union Secretary of State in 1862. The county accomplished its organization in 1865. The city of Seward, county seat of this county, was surveyed and platted in 1868; Milford started from a settlement made by J. L. Davison in 1864 and a postoffice established then. A dam and a flouring mill was built in 1866; Camden was started in 1864, and Beaver Crossing, Utica, Pleasant Dale, Tamora and Germantown were early stations on the Burlington line from Lincoln northwest, and Staplehurst and Ruby Center on a north and south line of this system. Wests Mill, Pittsburg, Marysville, Orton, and Oak Grove were very early inland points. Later railroad stations to come into a flourishing condition were Cordova, Grover, Goehner, Leahey, Bee and a few of the early inland points remain.

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheridan County, containing 2,469 square miles of territory, prior to its establishment in 1885, was a part of the great Unorganized Territory, and Big Sioux County. It lies immediately west of Cherry County on the northern border of the state. Since the Northwestern line to the Black Hills went through this county, several thriving towns sprang up; of which Rushville, the largest, is the

county seat; Gordon is a very enterprising town, Hay Springs and Clinton good stations. Along the line of the Burlington, traversing the southern edge of the county, is another line of railroad stations, Bingham, Ellsworth, Lakeside, Antioch and Birdsall. Since the discovery of potash within the last five years mainly in the lakes of southern Sheridan County, several of these towns, and most particularly Antioch and Lakeside, have jumped from small villages to little cities. And if this wonderful potash industry lives up to expectations in the next decade, a very bright future can be predicted for southern Sheridan County. Among the numerous inland points in this county are Hazleton, Long Lake, Jennings, Lulu, Hamilton, Spade, Strassberger, Schill, Kenomi, Hilton, Moomaw, Grayson, Hunter, Hinchley, and Peters between the two railroad lines, and Adaton, Dullaghan, Whiteclay, Billing, Albany, in the northern part of the county. The Sioux Indian, Pine Ridge, reservation near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, laps over into this county.

SIoux COUNTY

Sioux is the corner northwest county of the state, and has an area of 2,055 square miles. Prior to 1883, this county embraced all of that vast extent of country north of Cheyenne, and west of Holt. Though unorganized, and officially, for years, called the "Unorganized Territory" it went by the unofficial name of Sioux, long before it received that name officially. Camp Robinson Military Agency was located in the final territory of Sioux County proper, Camp Sheridan Military Reservation was in the territory finally assigned to Sheridan County. When the Northwestern Railroad line came through this county, stations were built up at Fort Robinson, serving the present Fort Robinson Military Reservation, Glen, Andrews, and Harrison, the county seat. The county has a large number of inland points, among which are, Malinda, Mud Springs, Kelley, Townsend, Empire, Curly, Canton, Ashbrook, Aldine, Dome, Dowling and Agate, south of the Niobrara River which traverses the county east and west. North of the river and railroad are Cross, Story, Montrose, and Unit, and between the river and railroad, Colville, while Orella, Joder and Mansfield are on a Burlington line to Edgemont that crosses the northeast corner of the county.

SHERMAN COUNTY

This county borders on the east of Custer County, and north of Buffalo, so is very near the center of the state. It has an area of 573 square miles. It was settled in 1872-3 by the impetus of efforts by a party of Grand Island men. It was organized by proclamation of Governor Furnas, January 13, 1873, and the first election in April, 1873, resulted in the selection of Loup City as county seat. Loup City started up in 1873, before it had any railroad facilities. Other towns that also started up while in the inland stage were, Rockville, Hayestown, Balsora, Buffton, Cedarville, Fitzalon, and Austin. When the branches of the Union Pacific and Burlington came over from St. Paul, they placed the following towns, as they sprang up or developed as railroad stations, Rockville, Austin and Loup City, and the Burlington branch continuing to Sargent, fed McAlpine; Schaupps and Ashton were on the branch from St. Paul, coming through Farwell in Howard County.

The Billings line of the Burlington cuts across the southwest corner of the county, and there are located Hazard and the very thriving town of Litchfield.

STANTON COUNTY

Stanton County is in the northeastern part of the state, so situated that two counties are east of it between the Missouri River and this county; and two to north before the northern boundary of the state is reached. It has an area of 431 square miles. Up until 1867, when it was named after Edwin M. Stanton, of Lincoln's cabinet, it was called IZARD County, and contained one tier of townships now belonging to Cuming County. It had been created since 1861, but its first permanent settlements did not come until 1865, when a group of homesteads were located on Humbug Creek, near the present town of Stanton. Stanton was located as the county seat at the first election, in 1866. Nothing was done for some three years toward building a town, or establishing county buildings until Densmore & Kendall moved their store from Clinton, three miles east. The following year they secured the Pleasant Run postoffice, a half mile west, but they had desired the Clinton postoffice. Canton postoffice which became the town of Pilger, was the next permanent town in the county, laid out in 1880 by the Elkhorn Valley Land and Town Lot Company. Clinton, Kingsberry, Canton, just mentioned, Donap, Orion, Schwedt, Craig City, and Bega were the other early towns or postoffice points in the county. Pilger and Stanton are the only two railroad towns in the county in 1920. Haymow and Bega still survive as inland points.

THAYER COUNTY

Thayer County was created in 1856, designated as Jefferson. As noted in the account of the present Jefferson County, this name was lost, and the new name of Thayer taken, in 1871, when the 1867 consolidation of the old Jefferson (now Thayer) and Jones (now Jefferson) was undone. The first settlements were made in 1869, though the county, as a part of the famous Overland Trail, had been traversed considerably before then. The final organization of the county ensued in 1871. Hebron, the county seat, was located in June, 1868, but its real establishment occurred in 1869. Alexandria was located in 1871, and named for S. J. Alexander, afterwards Secretary of State; Hubbell was laid out in 1880 by the Lincoln Land Company, Carleton was laid out in the early '70s; Belvidere was platted in 1872 but really started in 1873; Davenport, a town named after Davenport, Iowa, was laid out in 1872. Chester was laid out by the Lincoln Land Company in July, 1880; Friedensan, about eight miles northwest of Hebron was a postoffice and Lutheran settlement started in the '70s; Harbine was started about 1882; Deshler, a very enterprising little town in the southwest part of the county was laid out in 1887. H. J. Struve was the first settler and F. J. Hendershot started the town. Bruning, in the north part of county started about twenty years ago. Suckler Mill, Dryden, Kiowa, Gazelle, Prairie Star were early inland points. Newer towns not heretofore mentioned, in this county, are Byron, Stoddart, Williams, and Gilead.

THOMAS COUNTY

This is one of the smaller "sandhill" counties along the southern edge of big Cherry County. Its separate organization and permanent settlement accompanied the arrival of the Burlington railroad line in 1887. A division station was set at Seneca, and a town has grown up at this point, practically a railroad town. Virtually in the center, as between east and west borders, but to the northern part, has been built up the town of Thedford, the county seat. Norway to the west of Thedford, and Natick to the east, and Halsey on the Blaine county line, are the other railroad towns in the county. To the extreme southwest corner lies Summit and north lies Sunflower, inland points. The Thomas county towns receive much trade from southern Cherry County.

THURSTON COUNTY

The early history of this county is entwined in the story of the proposed Blackbird County which became the Omaha Indian Reservation. As the railroad went through this territory, the towns of Bancroft, Athens, station at Middle Creek, and town of Emerson sprang up. Winnebago was an interior supply station. In 1889, this territory was again given individual recognition and formed into a county, of 387 square miles in area, named for Nebraska's Senator John M. Thurston. This county now contains the remaining Omaha Reservation, and the thriving towns of Rosalie, Walthill and Winnebago on the Burlington line; Pender, Thurston, and Emerson on the C., St. P., M. & O. Macy is an inland settlement in eastern edge, on Blackbird Creek.

VALLEY COUNTY

This county is the second one north of Buffalo and has two counties yet to the north before reaching the northern boundary of the state. It is in the fertile Loup Valley, and has an area of 570 square miles. Its first actual settlement was in May, 1872, when a party of Danes from Wisconsin settled on the west side of the North Loup River, above two miles from the present town of Ord, on what is known as Dane Creek. Another colony had sent representatives to scout this country in 1871, and its first group, under the leadership of Rev. Oscar Babcock, arrived in 1872, a few days later than the Danish colony. This colony developed the North Loup settlement, and a postoffice was established at North Loup in 1872. The town of Ord was surveyed and platted in 1874, and named for Gen. E. O. C. Ord, then in command of the Department of the Platte. When the county was organized early in 1873, the county seat was located on the site of Ord, though the name was chosen later. The court house was built in 1876, the same year in which Fort Hartsuff, in the northern edge of the county was completed. Arcadia was started soon after this, in the western part of the county, and has developed into a very good town. Vinton, Mira Creek, Yale, Geranium, Sedlor, Ida, Garfield, Adair and Springdale were early postoffices or inland trading points. North Loup, Spelts, Olean, Ord, Elyria, and Arcadia are the railroad points now.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Very much of the early history of Washington County that belongs in this short sketch has been heretofore given, in the discussion of the establishment of the old Fort Calhoun (Fort Atkinson in 1819) and the town later; of Fontanelle, 1854; DeSoto, about 1855; Cuming City, 1854; and Blair, the final county seat in 1869. The county was one of the eight original counties that came in with the territorial government. Bell Creek was laid out in 1869 and Herman in 1870. Kennard was settled in 1856 by Nathaniel Brewster, who purchased the townsite, but the post-office was established in 1868; Hiland, formerly Mead station, was early, its name changed to Hiland in 1881, but the postoffice located there in 1882 under the name of Giles. Admah, in the northwest corner of the county was named after a Bible town of that name. Nero and Amherst were other early inland points. Arlington, Bowen, Hillside, Tyson and Coffman are later points to develop, and are all railroad stations.

WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County lies in the northeastern corner, to the south of Cedar and Dixon, border counties. It has an area of 450 square miles. It was organized by proclamation of Governor Butler in 1870, about two years after its first permanent settlement. Mr. B. F. Whitten was the pioneer settler. LaPorte was laid out in May, 1874, and was the early county seat of the county. Wayne P. O. or Brookdale, which was laid out by the railroad townsite company in 1881, rapidly grew and soon became the county seat. LaPorte was left as an inland point, and Wayne, Donop, Northside, became railroad stations. The towns of Hoskins, Apex and Winside are now the railroad stations southwest of Wayne in this county, and Carroll and Sholes to the northwest. Altona and Melvin are inland points.

WEBSTER COUNTY

Webster County is in the southern tier of counties, with six counties to each side of it in this tier. It has an area of 578 square miles. The first permanent settlement in the county was in the spring of 1870 by members of the Rankin Colony, they locating at Guide Rock. The same season, Silas Garber, later a governor of the state, pushed on up the Republican River to where Red Cloud now is, and projected a settlement at that point. The county was organized in 1873, and for some months the dugout of Silas Garber was used as a court house. Blue Hill was surveyed and platted in September, 1878, by A. B. Smith, the town surveyor, for the railroad company. Amboy started about 1876. Cowles was laid out in September, 1878, and named in honor of W. D. Cowles, who prior to his death had been general freight agent of the B. & M. Other points in this county some forty years ago were Inavale, on the Burlington line, Stockdale on the U. P., Eckley, Thomasville, Catherton, Wheatland, Wells, Stillwater, and Scott, inland points. Lester, Bladen and Rosemont are towns that sprang up after the railroad lines were well established in this county.

WHEELER COUNTY

This territory was for years in the great "Unorganized Territory." Wheeler County was authorized by Legislative act and named in 1877, but it was on April 11, 1881, that its formal organization was accomplished. Its first organization was a territory forty-eight miles long, being the entire territory adjacent to the present county of Holt on the south, and twenty-four miles wide. From the west half of this, in 1884, Garfield County was taken. J. F. Cummins was elected as the first county clerk and for some time he kept the records at Cumminsville, on Beaver Creek, which might therefore be termed the first county seat. But this place was too far east to suit the settlers, so a new county seat was projected and a town laid out, near the middle of the county, on Cedar Creek, or as often designated "River." This new town, Cedar City, with its nineteen blocks to be built around a court house square, also proved to be a "bird of passage" and in 1884, Bartlett was made the county seat, and Cedar City passed entirely out of sight. Bartlett has succeeded in holding the county seat against the onslaughts of a new town, in the southwestern corner of the county, Ericson, that became the terminus of a branch on the Burlington from Greeley. Pibel, Cumminsville, Headquarters, Arden, Newboro, and Francis are inland points, and Deloit is barely across the Holt county line.

YORK COUNTY

This county is 575 square miles in area, situated second county west of Lancaster and third tier from the south line of the state. Its first permanent settlement was made in 1865 by William Anderson and sons, upon the West Blue River. It had in 1863 some five stations along the Mormon trail, and in 1864 Mr. Lushbaugh had established what became known as the Jack Smith ranch. The first settlements were mainly along the valley of the West Blue. Settlements continued rapidly until by 1872 practically all of the government land was taken, and every part of the county had received a start toward permanent settlement. Prior to 1870 the county had been attached to Seward County for judicial, revenue and election purposes, though it received legislative establishment and a name in the Act of 1855. York was started in 1869, and was located as the county seat at the start. This has become one of the enterprising and beautiful small cities of the state. Bradshaw was started in 1879; McCool Junction, started in 1888; Henderson was incorporated in 1899; Benedict, in 1890; Lushton was surveyed and platted in 1887; Waco was laid out in 1877 when the Burlington came through; Arborville was laid out in 1874; and other early towns or postoffices in the county were, McFadden, Lisbon, Indian, Cana, Long Hope, Blue Valley, Westfield and Plainfield, railroad stations; the others being mainly inland points, and in the northern part of the county, were Staplehurst, Thayer, Arborville, Palo, and Creswell. Houston and Gresham have built up since the Northwestern came in from David City. Mapps, Knox and Charleston are railroad station points, and Arborville and Bluevale are the principal inland points in the county now.

The foregoing survey has only attempted to outline the first settlement, location, naming, area and organization of each county, attempting to give a chronological perspective of the establishment of its various towns, the waning of those that have disappeared or fallen behind, and closing with as complete a roster of

the present towns as could be secured. In attempting to name so many inland points in the various counties, many of which are hardly towns, but mere settlements with perhaps a school, church, store and garage, or some of those institutions, no doubt numerous inland communities just as worthy of record have been overlooked and missed, but their presence has not been intentionally slighted in any degree.

ORIGIN OF NEBRASKA NAMES

The name "Nebraska" first appeared in print about 1812, the year in which John C. Fremont made his explorations through this region, and in his report spoke of the "Nebraska River." This was the Otoe Indian name for the Platte, derived from the Otoe word, "Ne-brath-ka," meaning "Flat Water." Secretary of War William Wilkins, in his report of November 30, 1844, says "The Platte or Nebraska River being the central stream would very properly furnish a name to the (proposed) territory.

COUNTY NAMES

The origin of the names given to the ninety-three counties of Nebraska is very interesting. It is rather difficult to figure this out with perfect accuracy, for numerous counties derived their names from legislative enactment, with no registration made of the source from which the proposer derived the names selected, and other counties took their names from local sources, even when the name rather intimates being a memorial to some well known public servant, and in still others, the true origin still remains a matter of unsettled contention.

A dozen Nebraska counties received names which commemorate one of the Presidents of the United States; Washington (George Washington, President 1789-1797); Adams, for John Adams, 1797-1801; Jefferson, for Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809; Madison, for James Madison, 1809-1817; Polk, for James K. Polk, 1845-1849; Fillmore, for James Fillmore, 1850-1853; Pierce, bearing same name as Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857; Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865; Grant, for U. S. Grant, 1869-1877; Hayes, for Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881; Garfield, for James A. Garfield, 1881; and Arthur, for Chester A. Arthur, 1881-1885. The county now Platte, once bore the name of Monroe, for President James Monroe, 1817-1825. It is often thought that Johnson County may have received its name from President Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869, but it more than likely received it from the memory of Gen. R. M. Johnson, for whose wife the county seat was first named and later changed to Tecumseh, for the famous Indian chief who is supposed to have been killed in battle by General Johnson.

Numerous other counties bear the names of statesmen who left their impress upon American history, even if they did not in some instances attain the coveted goal of the presidency. The names bestowed upon Franklin, Hamilton, Knox and Wayne counties bring to memory the names of Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and their two contemporaries of Revolutionary times. Boone County's name pays tribute to Daniel Boone of Kentucky; Cass, recalls to mind General Lewis Cass of Michigan; and the names of the great triumvirate of statesmen of the period between 1820 and 1850 were commemorated in this state, though one memorial fell by the wayside. Webster County recalls Daniel Webster; Clay County pays tribute to Henry Clay, and is a name tried twice, once upon a

county later divided between Gage and Lancaster, and finally upon the present Clay County. The county given the name of Calhoun later became Saunders. Quite fittingly did the name of Douglas befall the lot of the most populous county of the state, for to Stephen A. Douglas was much credit due for the establishment of statehood to Nebraska. Another senator, Augustus C. Dodge of Iowa, who introduced a statehood bill, was similarly honored. Three members of President Lincoln's cabinet, Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of State William H. Seward and Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton have had their names preserved to posterity by Nebraska counties. Vice-President Schuyler Colfax was similarly honored. Horace Greeley and James G. Blaine were two statesmen whose names are preserved in Nebraska's County Roll. Dixon and Harlan are two more counties that bear names, probably from other lesser statesmen.

A considerable group of generals of the Civil war period were likewise honored, no doubt largely because of the reverence for their careers carried by legislators who had seen service in their commands. In addition to General (President) Grant, such respect was paid to Generals William T. Sherman, Philip H. Sheridan, O. O. Howard, Hooker, Thomas, Logan, McPherson and the compiler is not sure of the name Wheeler. Custer County plainly bears the suggestion of Gen. George A. Custer; as does Kearney, the respect shown to Gen. Stephen W. Kearney, and Cherry was named for Lieutenant Cherry. The county of Holt commemorates the Indian period.

Reverting to the local statesmen of Nebraska's early political history, in numerous instances, similar tribute was paid to some governor, senator or state official. The following governors, territorial and state, were thus honored: Francis Burt; Mark W. Izard, by a county that afterwards lost this name; William A. Richardson; Black and Morton were passed, though Morton was so carried for a time; and finally Saunders, the last territorial governor, whose namesake took away the name Calhoun from that statesman's memory. Secretary and Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming received an honor that stayed. Secretary Paddock's county, which was to be cut out of Holt, did not hold that name. It has often been thought that Hall County was named in honor of Judge Augustus Hall, then chief justice at the time of its legislative organization, but local tradition attributes the name to a local party, business partner of an early sheriff of that county.

Beginning with David Butler, the first state governor, numerous successors in this office received this tribute. Of the next six governors, all were so honored except Silas Garber, namely Robert W. Furnas, Albinus Nance, James W. Dawes, John M. Thayer and James E. Boyd. The few counties organized during the administrations of the succeeding governors were named from other sources. Secretary of State John J. Gosper, 1873-1875, was the only minor state officer to be so honored, unless it might have been that the prestige of Attorney General Champion S. Chase, rather than Lincoln's cabinet officer of that name, influenced the naming of that county. Several United States senators have been thus honored in Nebraska. The honor accorded to John M. Thayer in naming such a county came rather during his days of prestige from the senatorship than his later regime as governor. Hitchcock County was named for United States Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock, father of Nebraska's present Senator, Gilbert M. Hitchcock. Saunders, of course, served as both governor and senator. Senator Thurston, from 1895-1901, had one of the later counties named in his honor. Keith County may have taken its

name from Judge Keith; Dundy took its name from United States Judge Elmer S. Dundy; Morrill County, from Charles H. Morrill, president of State Board of Agriculture for some years; Brown County bears a name attributable to a number of sources; Sarpy County bears honor to the pioneer of early days, long before territorial organization, Peter A. Sarpy; and a number of counties bear names, the source of which is not readily explainable; Dawson, Nuckolls, Merrick, Phelps. At least three counties were named for prominent railroad officials, Kimball, Deuel and Perkins; Gage was named for Rev. W. D. Gage, chaplain of the legislative session which enacted the county's existence. Lancaster and York were names bestowed by the Legislature of 1855, attributed by many to the towns and families of those names in English history.

This leaves a group of counties which bear names, the significance of which can be surmised from their very meaning; Antelope and Buffalo preserve the memory of two of the great family of animals found by the white man when he arrived in Nebraska; Platte, Loup and Nemaha coincide with the names of nearby rivers; Frontier, Valley, Banner, Garden, Rock and Saline bear witness to physical qualities of the region; Scotts Bluff and Box Butte are attributable to noted landmarks within their own borders; Cedar and Red Willow call to mind the names of Nebraska trees; and another group of counties bear mute tribute to Indian tribes that formerly traversed their areas; Cheyenne, Keya Paha, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Sioux, Ponca and Dakota. The greatest inconsistencies perhaps crept into naming Frontier to a county not on the frontier especially; Valley to a county, no more so appropriate than many others; Saline to a county whose neighbors have deposits of that product rather than itself.

Some names just as worthy as the fortunate one had to be passed by, names of statesmen just as worthy of honor as many who did receive the same. It would seem that Governors Izard, Black, James and Garber made just as creditable record as the other early state executives. Charles Sumner, whose name is not preserved in the state in county or town, gave early currency to, if not actual coining, the phrase that stands forth in Nebraska's motto; "Equality Before the Law."

CHAPTER VI

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

FORMATIVE STEPS—AREA—OFFICERS—GOVERNOR CUMING'S ADMINISTRATION—GOVERNOR IZARD'S ADMINISTRATION—GOVERNOR RICHARDSON—GOVERNOR BLACK—GOVERNOR SAUNDERS—NEBRASKA'S PART IN THE CIVIL WAR—NINTH TO TWELFTH LEGISLATURES—EVOLUTION INTO STATEHOOD—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1866—OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE TERRITORY.

Formative Steps. There are a vast number of details, historically important and very interesting, concerning the formation and growth of the territory of Nebraska, and its evolution into statehood, and its development into one of the banner states of this great Union, now composed of a sisterhood of forty-eight states. It will be possible in this restricted view to only grasp the structural points of this evolution, and this probably can be best accomplished through another chronological survey.

1844. This being the year of the first practically permanent settlements, is a good starting point. As the first projection of the old Fort Kearney and the Mormon arrivals at Florence took place in this year, they touched the eastern border of a vast region extending from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, known vaguely and indefinitely as the "Platte Country." It might as well be mentioned right here, that the dominant political issue of the next decade, intervening between this point and Nebraska's final erection as a territory was slavery. It was interjected not only into political affairs, but economic, business, social, church and civic activities as well as state affairs. The fierce struggle over the admission of Missouri had ended without an open disruption of the Union but had left its mark of contention so rapidly gaining a grip upon the affairs of the country that the very suggestion of farther territory to the west, available for territories or states, opened the matter for bitter struggle at once. In this year, 1844, two events forerunning the erection of the new territory occurred. November 30, the first official use of the name "Nebraska" was made by Secretary of War William Wilkins, who suggested the "Platte" or "Nebraska" river country as a good area for another state and December 17, Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, introduced his first Nebraska bill in the House of Representatives at Washington, an effort which came to naught in immediate results, but far reaching in its foundation effects.

1848. Stephen A. Douglas made another futile attempt, by his introduction of the second Nebraska bill.

1851. Another attempt to project a territory west of Iowa and Missouri, even failed to reach a vote, in the session of 1851-2.

1853. This year marks the beginning of the real and final efforts. Willard P. Hall of Missouri, offered a measure, on December 13, 1852, attempting to organize the Territory of "Platte," but from the Committee on Territories, William A.

Richardson, of Illinois, secured the reporting of a bill organizing the Territory of Nebraska, but despite the very warm opposition of the southern members, this bill went to the Senate accompanied by pro-slavery blasts of warning. Stephen A. Douglas got it out of the committee in the Senate, but too late to secure its adoption in that session. In the fall of 1853, a number of men assembled at Bellevue, and delegated Hadley D. Johnson, a prominent citizen of Council Bluffs, Iowa, to represent them in this matter. On December 14, 1853, Senator Augustus C. Dodge, of Iowa, introduced another Nebraska bill. Senator Douglas, on January 23, 1854, offered a bill so amending Senator Dodge's offering that it left little but the title, and proposing instead of one territory, Nebraska, set forth two, the other to be called "Kansas." This bill, with some further amendments, was passed on March 4, in the Senate and in the House in May, and signed by President Pierce on May 30, 1854.

Area. The territory as then formed contained 351,558 square miles, extending from the 40th parallel of north latitude to the British Possessions, and from the Missouri River to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. On February 28, 1861, 16,035 square miles were set off to the Territory of Colorado; and on March 2d, 228,907 square miles to Dakota. A triangular tract of 15,378 square miles received later from Washington and Utah territories was included in a 45,999 square miles area taken from Nebraska and given to Idaho, March 3, 1863, which later step virtually reduced Nebraska to its present limits.

Officers. The first corps of territorial officers appointed by President Pierce were as follows:—governor, Francis Burt of Carolina; his secretary, Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa; chief justice of the courts, Fenner Ferguson, of Michigan; associate justices James Bradley of Indiana, and Edward R. Hardin, of Georgia; marshal, Mark W. Izard, of Arkansas, and attorney, Experience Estabrook, of Wisconsin. Governor Burt reached the Territory in ill-health, on the 6th day of October, 1854, and proceeded to Bellevue, where he was the guest of Rev. Wm. J. Hamilton, at the old Mission House. His illness proved of a fatal character, and he died on October 18, 1854. Thus ended most tragically and shortly the first gubernatorial administration in Nebraska, before it could shape any official record.

From this point, it will be necessary to review the territorial government, giving brief outline of the important events of each administration, and a brief record of the important accomplishments of each territorial legislature.

1854. GOVERNOR CUMING. The first act of Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming was the official proclamation of the death of Governor Burt. Chief Justice Ferguson of the Courts had arrived in the state on October 11, and Justice Bradley on October 14, but Justice Hardin did not arrive until December 1st. Marshal Izard arrived on the 20th of October, the day after Governor Burt's funeral. Governor Cuming's administration, as acting governor, lasted until February, 1855. Important events transpiring in these four months were:—*Capital location.* For the seat of government, a fierce competition ensued between Bellevue, Florence, Omaha, Nebraska City and Plattsmouth, and Acting Governor Cuming decided upon Omaha, although his official place of residence remained at Bellevue, until January, 1855. *First census.* An enumeration was ordered taken on October 24, 1854, which showed a total of 2,732 inhabitants. Considerable discrepancies were later shown to have developed in this task and it bears no material worth as a reliable historical record. The territory was divided into the eight original counties; Burt, Washington, Douglas,

Dodge, Cass, Pierce, Forney and Richardson. The first general election was held on December 12, 1854, and on December 20, 1854, a proclamation was issued calling on the First Territorial Legislature to meet at Omaha, on January 16, 1855.

First Legislature. Convened in a two-story brick building at Omaha, at 10 o'clock A. M., January 16, 1855. Temporary officers were Hiram P. Bennett, of Pierce County, president pro tem. The Committee on Credentials were Joseph L. Sharp, Richardson, who became president of the council, J. C. Mitchell of Washington County and Luke Nuckolls, of Cass County. In the Representatives the temporary organization was John M. Latham, of Cass County, speaker, and J. W. Paddock, as chief clerk pro tem., and later permanently. The permanent speaker was A. J. Hanscom, of Douglas. The important part of the governor's message, after his allusions to the loss of Governor Burt, was that pertaining to the Pacific Railway. Local machinery of government was provided for and county officers created. The criminal code of Iowa, with some slight, necessary alterations, was adopted for the regulation of the new territory. Three institutions of learning were incorporated, Simpson University at Omaha, the Nebraska University at Omaha, and the Collegiate and Preparatory Institute at Nebraska City. The favorable report of the committee, of which M. H. Clark of Dodge County was chairman, upon the bill chartering the Platte Valley and Pacific Railroad Company was the far reaching act of this Legislature.

Other Events of This Period. Other events transpiring in the territory, prior to February, 1855, which were foundation stones in the various lines of activity of the commonwealth, were:—December 23, Acting-Governor Cuming called for two volunteer regiments for defense against the Indians; December 30th—a convention at Nebraska City adopted resolutions asking that General Bela Hughes of Missouri, be appointed governor and Dr. P. J. McMahon, of Iowa for secretary. January 26, 1855. The territorial capital was definitely located at Omaha.

GOVERNOR IZARD'S ADMINISTRATION. On February 20, 1855, Gov. Mark W. Izard, delivered his inaugural address, as the second official governor of the territory, and he resigned on October 25, 1857. In his administration considerable progress was made. The postoffice at Bellevue was established in March, 1855, with Daniel E. Reed as postmaster. In the same month, the first session of district court was held at Bellevue. Several churches were organized that year, in Omaha, Brownville, and Nebraska City. In January, 1856, Mrs. Amelia Bloomer delivered an address on votes for women in Omaha in the Second Legislature's Hall. The boundary lines of many counties were fixed by the Legislature, in 1856. A road was surveyed and its construction began, from Omaha to Fort Kearney. The real and personal property was assessed and another census taken, which revealed the presence of 10,716 inhabitants. The foregoing facts mentioned, cover mainly the activities of the Second Territorial Legislature which convened at Omaha, on December 18, 1855. Hon. A. D. Jones, of Douglas, was an important figure in this session, and it was he who mainly handled the matter of designating names to the various counties provided for by this session. B. R. Folsom, president of Council and P. C. Sullivan, speaker of the House.

Third Session of Legislature. Convened at Omaha, January 5, 1857. L. L. Bowen, president of the Council, and O. F. Lake chief clerk; I. L. Gibbs was speaker of the House, and J. H. Brown chief clerk. In this session, the first attempt was made to remove the capital from Omaha. Governor Izard

promptly vetoed a bill proposing to establish it at a town to be named "Douglas." He also vetoed the most striking piece of legislation advanced by this session, the repeal of the criminal code, but they passed it over his veto and left the territory without any criminal laws.

Fourth Legislature. This session began on December 8, 1857. Hon. George L. Miller of Omaha was elected president of the Council, Washburn Safford, chief clerk, and of the House, Hon. J. H. Decker, of Otoe, was speaker and S. M. Curran, chief clerk. The memorable event of this session was the secession of a portion of its membership, who attempted to set up a separate assembly at Florence. This division resulted from further attempts to remove the capital from Omaha. This rupture blocked all further attempts to accomplish anything at this session, and it expired on January 16th, by limitation. For a second time Thomas B. Cuming had been acting governor, since the resignation of Governor Izard.

GOVERNOR RICHARDSON. Gov. William A. Richardson arrived on January 12th, 1858. His official career was short, as he resigned within a few months and left the territory upon December 5th, whereupon Sec. J. Sterling Morton became acting governor. In the period of sixteen months, from Governor Richardson's accession until Governor Black took office, political lines began to form themselves. The first political convention in the territory had taken place on January 8, 1858, in Omaha, as a democratic mass convention. The republicans followed suit on January 18th at Omaha. A special legislative session was convened on September 21, 1858.

Fifth Legislative Session. Bowen and Curran were president and chief clerk of the Council, and H. P. Bennet, was speaker and E. G. McNeely, chief clerk of the House. A committee consisting of Hons. R. W. Furnas, W. E. Moore and Geo. W. Doane, reported resolutions upon the death of Sec. Thomas B. Cuming, which had occurred on March 23, 1858. Representative S. G. Daily introduced a bill on November 1, to "abolish slavery in the Territory of Nebraska." It was referred to a special committee, consisting of S. G. Daily, James Stewart, John Taffe, D. P. Rankin, and William C. Fleming. Two reports, with the majority report being favorable, were returned, but the measure was finally laid upon the table.

GOV. S. W. BLACK. Gov. Samuel W. Black, arrived on May 2, 1859, and relieved Acting Gov. (Secretary) J. Sterling Morton of the reins of office. In the first months of his administration, events of interest that transpired were, among, of course, many others not detailed here:—The action in June, of advocates of annexation to Kansas who visited the Kansas constitutional convention. That body allowed them to be heard, but took no action toward extending the boundaries of that state; in August, the democratic convention at Plattsmouth, nominated the first democratic ticket, and the republicans followed with a similar convention nine days later, at Plattsmouth. From September 21-24, the first territorial agricultural and mechanical fair was held at Nebraska City. October 11, Chief Justice Fenner Ferguson died.

Sixth Session of Legislature. Convened at Omaha, December 5, 1859. Of the Council, E. A. Donelan, was president and S. M. Curran remained chief clerk; and in the House, Silas A. Strickland was speaker, and James W. Moore, chief clerk. In Governor Black's message he called attention to the fact that since 1854 the territory had expanded from eight counties, to twenty-three with representative there and thirty-five organized or their boundaries fixed by law. The fight over

slavery sprang forth as the main issue in this session. William H. Taylor introduced a bill to abolish slavery in Nebraska, citing that the census of 1854 had shown thirteen slaves living in Nebraska, and gave the names of men who held slaves at the time he was pushing his measure. George L. Miller argued that the measure was not of sufficient importance to warrant the agitation it created, that Nebraska was in no danger of becoming either a slave territory or state, and George W. Doane concurred in his views. Similar attempts appeared in the House, but in the end they were all voted down for the time being. Another notable feature of this session was the first active attempt to raise Nebraska to statehood. A bill was passed at this session, submitting the proposition to the people of the state, and at an election on March 5, 1860, it was rejected by a vote of 2,373 to 2,094.

Seventh Legislature. This session convened on December 3, 1860, with Governor Black still in office. W. H. Taylor was president, and E. P. Brewster, chief clerk of the Council, and in the House, H. W. DePuy was speaker and George L. Seybolt was chief clerk. During this session, slavery received its final quietus. John M. Thayer in the Council and Representative Mathias introduced bills, and when the House Bill was passed, then vetoed by the governor, it received passage over the veto. Governor Black was the last of the succession of democratic governors who had presided over the territory since 1854. He left the territory on May 2, 1861, and died on the field of battle in defense of the Union, in the second year of the war.

GOVERNOR SAUNDERS. Alvin Saunders, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was appointed governor, by President Lincoln, and with him, in May, 1861, came Algeron S. Paddock, as secretary. Governor Saunders held the mantle of office until the actual installation of statehood in 1867, and during much of this time, Secretary Paddock was acting-governor at intervals. It was, of course, during Governor Saunders' administration that the period of the Civil war, and Nebraska's height of Indian depredations took place, and he had a busy administration. Also, another important event of his administration was the projection into a reality, the Pacific Railroad. In his message to the *Eighth Session of the Legislature*, which convened December 2, 1861, the governor said:

"A mere glance at the map of the country will convince every intelligent mind that the great Platte Valley, which passes through the heart and runs nearly the entire length of Nebraska, is to furnish the route for the great central railroad, which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific States and Territories."

The apportionment of \$19,312 as Nebraska's share of the tax necessitated by the breaking out of the war was endorsed by the governor, and this session likewise passed resolutions renewing Nebraska's vows of allegiance to the federal government, branding secession and nullification as treason against the general government and stamping Nebraska's position in the great struggle over the preservation of the Union, beyond doubt.

Nebraska's Part in the War. With a population of less than 30,000, Nebraska sent 3,307 men to fight for the preservation of the Union. Under the proclamation of President Lincoln calling for three years' volunteers, one regiment was assigned to Nebraska. Governor Saunders immediately called for volunteers to fill Nebraska's contingent. The first company was formed June 3, 1861, and the regiment was filled within fifty days, by organization of the tenth company, July 22.

The officers who served this regiment were Colonels John M. Thayer (pro-

moted to brigadier general October 4, 1862) and Robt. R. Livingston of Plattsmouth. Besides Colonel Livingston, the lieutenant colonels were Hiram P. Downs, of Nebraska City; Wm. D. McCord, of Plattsmouth, and Wm. Baumer of Omaha. Besides McCord, Livingston and Baumer, who had been promoted, the Majors were Allen Blacker, of Nebraska City, Geo. Armstrong, Omaha, and Thos. J. Majors of Brownville. The regiment composed of Companies A to K, inclusive. This regiment embarked at Omaha for the field of action on July 30, 1861, and were stationed in Missouri, going into winter quarters at Georgetown. February 2, 1862, they left for Tennessee, and from Fort Henry went to Fort Donelson, where in that siege they participated in their first real engagement, with General Lew Wallace as their division commander. They participated at Corinth, and scouted in the southwestern states in 1862 and 1863, coming to St. Louis in fall, and participating in numerous memorable occasions in the western field during 1863 and 1864. They assisted in Indian excursions prior to being mustered out of service on July 1, 1866.

The Second Regiment, Nebraska Cavalry, was organized in the fall of 1862, as a nine months regiment, and served about one year. Its activities were mainly in Nebraska, and Dakota in the Indian skirmishes. Colonel Robert W. Furnas of Brownville was in command, with W. F. Sapp of Omaha, as lieutenant colonel and Majors George Armstrong of Omaha, John Taffe, of Omaha, and John W. Pearman, of Nebraska City. When this Second Regiment was mustered out of service, in September, 1863, Major George Armstrong was commissioned by Governor Saunders to raise an independent battalion cavalry from its veterans. This battalion, consisting mainly of Companies A, B, C and D, were mustered into service as the First Battalion, Nebraska Veteran Cavalry, and assigned to duty on the plains. In July, 1865, this battalion was consolidated with the First Regiment, Nebraska Veteran Cavalry, and mustered out of service a year later.

When, in August, 1861, a call was issued for two companies of cavalry to join the First Nebraska Regiment (Infantry) two Companies, "A" at Omaha under Capt. M. T. Patrick, and "B" at Omaha, under Capt. J. T. Croft, were formed. They did not join the First Nebraska, but with two other companies, one from Nebraska City recruited around there and from Page County, Iowa, under Capt. J. M. Young, and one recruited under Lieut. Wm. Curl of St. Louis, were merged into the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, under which name they went through the war, although also called the "Curtis Horse." They served their time in the Southwestern Army.

During the Indian outbreaks, centering around August, 1864, in addition to the handful of regulars available at the regular military posts, and the First Nebraska Veteran Volunteer Cavalry, and the many unofficial, hurried local organizations of settlers, along military plan, there were numerous companies of militia organized and called out by Governor Saunders. These included Companies A, B and C, First Regiment, Second Brigade, Company A, First Regiment, First Brigade, a detachment of thirteen men, artillery militia under Capt. Edward P. Childs; and Company "A," Pawnee Scouts, under Capt. Frank North, and a company of Omaha Indians, under Capt. Edwin R. Nash.

Ninth Session of Legislature. This session convened at Omaha, January 7, 1864. E. A. Allen was President and J. W. Hollingshead as Chief Clerk of the Council, and in the House, George B. Lake was Speaker and R. Streeter, Chief Clerk. Governor Saunders in his message referred to the prosperous condition of

the territory, and paid high tribute to the courage and high patriotism of the Nebraska Volunteers.

Tenth Session of Legislature. Convened at Omaha, January 5, 1865, and elected O. P. Mason, President and John S. Bowen, Chief Clerk of the Council, and in the House, S. M. Kirkpatrick was Speaker and John Taffe, Chief Clerk. Governor Saunders had desired only one term, but in February, 1865, joint resolutions were passed urging his re-appointment, and that of Secretary Paddock.

The Eleventh Session met at Omaha, January 4, 1866. O. P. Mason remained as President and W. E. Harvey was chosen as Chief Clerk of the Council. Jas. G. Megeath was speaker and George May, chief clerk of the House. This session authorized the people of the Territory to vote upon the question of statehood.

The Twelfth and Last Territorial Legislature. This session convened January 10, 1867, after the first provisional (state) Legislature had convened on the preceding July 4th. E. H. Rogers was President and O. B. Hewitt, Chief Clerk of this session's Council, and in the House, W. F. Chapin was speaker and J. S. Bowen remained as Chief Clerk. This was an uneventful, valedictory session, as statehood was now virtually an accomplished fact.

THE EVOLUTION INTO STATEHOOD

1862-3. During this session of Congress, a bill was introduced, authorizing the territories of Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada to take the preliminary steps toward admission into the Union as states. This measure did not reach final action during the life of that session.

1864. On April 19th, an act of Congress was approved by the President and became a law, enabling the people of Nebraska to form a State constitution and government. But the continuance of the war, the Indian trouble pending about that time, and concurrent conditions rendered immediate action upon this permission inexpedient.

1866. February 9, the action of the Territorial Legislature made local provision for carrying that law into effect.

June 2, an election was held to decide the question. The tabulation of this vote will serve to show the closeness of the question even then, and also the development of the state, illustrating what counties were then formed.

Counties	For	Against
Burt	222	42
Buffalo	1	41
Cedar	12	39
Cuming	31	41
Cass	233	180
Dixon	34	36
Dakota	106	32
Douglas	491	572
Dodge	96	45
Gage	96	61
Hall	2	29
Johnson	108	69

Counties	For	Against
Jones	32	13
Kearney	21	7
L'Eau-qui-Court (now Knox) no returns .....	..	..
Lancaster	95	23
Lincoln	30	20
Merrick	16	8
Nemaha	346	489
Otoe	432	870
Platte	123	55
Pawnee	233	31
Richardson	503	373
Sarpy	109	231
Seward	23	24
Saline	5	54
Washington	404	89
Soldiers' vote	134	34
	<hr/> 3938	<hr/> 3838

The closeness of this vote might be puzzling, viewed fifty or sixty years in the retrospective were not the explanation made that considerable politics was injected into this question. The republican party in President Johnson's administration was somewhat divided, and a coalition of the Johnson or liberal wing of that party, with the democrats, especially for patronage and like purposes, alarmed such of the republicans as those in Nebraska. The republicans of Nebraska desired the adoption of the constitution and to secure two senators and a representative to help sway the narrow margin at Washington; while the democrats worked almost as hard against the adoption of the statehood instrument as for their own ticket.

July 4, 1866. According to the provision of the new Constitution therefor, the first provisional (state) legislature met on this date, at Omaha. F. Welch was President and C. E. Yost, Chief Clerk of the Council, and W. A. Pollock, Speaker, and J. H. Brown, Chief Clerk of the House. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of this session was the election of two men to the U. S. Senate, both of whom had won their military spurs, Maj.-Gen. John M. Thayer, being elected "the senator from the North Platte" and Chaplain Thomas W. Tipton, "the senator from the South Platte" and the "state of Nebraska" being disregarded in the designations. Hon. T. M. Marquette had been elected as the first representative.

July 18, 1866. A bill was introduced into the National Congress to provide for the admission of Nebraska, and passed on July 28th, but owing to the near approach of the end of the session, the quiet pocketing of that bill by President Johnson was all that was needed to prevent its becoming a law at that time. Congress adjourned and left the embryo state out in the cold, with a set of state officials, legislature and everything elected ready to function; but its charter not issued yet.

December, 1866. When Congress convened, somewhat new conditions had taken place and the republicans, with their solidarity strengthened were not worrying so much about new accessions of numerical membership. While the Fifteenth amendment had not yet been adopted, the stalwart feeling in favor of a franchise

unlimited in the color line was rapidly growing. The conservative gentlemen who framed the new Nebraska constitution had inserted the word "white" in the franchising qualifications, and as this was a factor not provided for in the enabling act, opened the path for further obstacles. Then the representatives of the older states were now more interested in preserving their sectional and individual weight than granting accessions to the rapidly growing and menacing Northwest. But in January, 1867, a bill looking to the admission of Nebraska received the indorsement of Congress. But it was promptly vetoed by the President, on the ground it embraced the conditions referred to not covered in the enabling act; that the proceedings attending the formation of the constitution were different from those prescribed, and that the population of the territory did not justify its becoming a state. The bill, however, was passed over the President's veto, by a vote of 30 to 9 in the Senate and by a vote, the day following, in the House, of 120 to 44. But the provision was added that the act was not to take effect,

"Except upon the fundamental condition that within the State of Nebraska there shall be no denial of the elective franchise, or any other right, to any person by reason of race or color, except Indians not taxed; and upon the further fundamental condition that the Legislature of said State, by a solemn public act, shall declare the assent of said State to the said fundamental condition."

February 14, 1867. Territorial Governor Saunders, still the Chief Executive of Nebraska issued a proclamation calling together the newly elected state legislature to comply with the conditions above set forth.

February 20, 1867. Immediate action was taken upon this subject, and a bill was passed by the Senate, by a vote of seven to three, and by the House, twenty to six, and approved by the governor. The Legislature provided for the formal notification of the President of the United States of the acceptance of the conditions prescribed, and then adjourned.

March 1, 1867. President Andrew Johnson issued the proclamation declaring Nebraska a state. The next day, Hon. T. M. Marquette presented his credentials in the national House of Representatives and consummated the bond. The two senators, by waiting two days lengthened their terms a couple of years, but Marquette was tired of Washington, so he qualified, cast a few votes in two days and came home.

OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE TERRITORY

Governors. Francis Burt, October 16, 1854; died October 18th. (Acting Gov. Thomas B. Cuming served in the following interim.) 2nd. Governor Mark W. Izard, Feb. 20, 1855; (Acting Gov. Thos. B. Cuming, served again after Governor Izard's resignation October 25, 1857). 3d. Wm. A. Richardson, January 12, 1858 (Secretary J. Sterling Morton, acting governor from December 5, 1858, to May 2, 1859). 4th. Samuel W. Black, May 2, 1859 (with Morton acting governor again in 1861, February to May). 5th. Alvin Saunders, May 15, 1861 (with Secretary A. S. Paddock, as acting governor for a portion of the time from 1861-1867).

Secretaries. Thomas B. Cuming, August 13, 1854; John B. Motley, acting March 23-July 12, 1858, until the arrival of J. Sterling Morton, who served from July 12, 1858, until May 6, 1861, and Algernon S. Paddock, May 6, 1861, until 1867.

Auditors. Chas. B. Smith, Mar. 16, 1855; Samuel S. Campbell, Aug. 3, 1857; Wm. E. Moore, June 1, 1858; Robert C. Jordon, August 2, 1858; Wm. E. Harvey, Oct. 8, 1861; John Gillespie, Oct. 10, 1865.

Treasurer. B. P. Rankin, Mar. 16, 1855; Wm. W. Wyman, Nov. 6, 1855; Augustus Kountze, Oct. 8, 1861.

Librarians. James S. Izard, Mar. 16, 1855; H. C. Anderson, Nov. 6, 1855; John H. Kellom, Aug. 3, 1857; Alonzo D. Luce, Nov. 7, 1859; Robt. S. Knox, — 1861.

Judiciary. Chief Justices were, Fenner Ferguson, October 12, 1854; Augustus Hall, March 15, 1858; William Pitt Kellogg, May 27, 1861; William Kellogg, May 8, 1865; William A. Little, who died in office, 1866.

Associate Justices. James Bradley, Oct. 25, 1854; Edward R. Harden, Dec. 4, 1854; Samuel W. Black, 1857; Eleazer Wakely, April 22, 1857; Joseph Miller, April 9, 1859; Wm. E. Lockwood, May 16, 1861; Joseph E. Streeter, Nov. 18, 1861; Elmer S. Dundy, June 22, 1863.

Clerks were H. C. Anderson, 1856; Charles S. Salisbury, 1858; E. B. Chandler, 1859; John H. Kellom, 1861; William Kellogg, Jr., 1865.

District Attorneys were S. A. Strickland, June 11, 1855; Jonathan H. Smith, June 9, 1855; D. S. McGary, May 10, 1855; John M. Latham, Jacob Safford, William Kline, Nov. 6, 1855; Jas. G. Chapman, William McLennan, George W. Doane, Aug. 3, 1857, U. C. Johnson, October 11, 1859.

Delegates to Congress. Napoleon B. Gidding, December 12, 1854; Bird B. Chapman, November 6, 1855, who defeated Hiram P. Bennett by a vote of 380 to 292; Fenner Ferguson, August 3, 1857, who had received 1,642 votes to Chapman, 1,559; Benj. P. Rankin, 1,241, John M. Thayer, 1,171 and 21 scattering in a total of 5,634. Experience Estabrook, October 11, 1859, whose vote of 3,100 defeated Samuel G. Daily with 2,800; J. Sterling Morton, in 1860, with 2,957 votes, defeated Samuel G. Daily, who had 2,943; Samuel G. Daily, in election of 1862, with 2,331 votes this time won out over John F. Kinney, who polled 2,180 votes; Phineas W. Hitchcock polled 3,421 over George L. Miller, 2,399 votes in the election of 1864.

U. S. Marshals. Mark W. Izard, Oct. 28, 1854; Eli R. Doyle, April 7, 1855; Benjamin P. Rankin, March 29, 1856; Phineas W. Hitchcock, Sept. 19, 1861; and Casper E. Yost, April 1, 1865.

CHAPTER VII

NEBRASKA'S GOVERNMENT AS A STATE

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION (1867-9)—CHANGE IN CAPITAL—
BUTLER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION—BUTLER'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION 1871—
THE IMPEACHMENT OF A GOVERNOR—GOVERNOR FURNAS'S ADMINISTRATION
(1873-5)—GOVERNOR GARBER'S ADMINISTRATION (1875-7)—THE CONSTITUTION
OF 1875—GOVERNOR GARBER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION (1877-9)—GOVERNOR
NANCE'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1879-1883)—GOVERNOR DAWES' ADMINISTRATIONS
(1883-1887)—GOVERNOR THAYER'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1887-1891)—GOVERNOR
BOYD'S ADMINISTRATION (1891-3)—GOVERNOR CROUNSE'S ADMINISTRATION
(1893-5)—GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S ADMINISTRATION (1895-1899)—NEBRASKA IN
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—GOVERNOR POYNTER'S ADMINISTRATION (1899-
1901)—GOVERNORS DIETRICH-SAVAGE ADMINISTRATION (1901-3)—GOVERNOR
MICKEY'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1903-1907)—GOVERNOR SHELTON'S ADMINISTRATION
(1907-1909)—GOVERNOR SHALLENBERGER'S ADMINISTRATION (1909-1911)—
GOVERNOR ALDRICH'S ADMINISTRATION (1911-13)—GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S AD-
MINISTRATIONS (1913-1917)—GOVERNOR NEVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION (1917-1919)
—SEMI-CENTENNIAL STATEHOOD CELEBRATION, 1917—NEBRASKA IN THE WORLD
WAR—GOVERNOR MC KELVIE'S ADMINISTRATION (1919-1921)—CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION OF 1920—STATE INSTITUTIONS—ROSTER OF STATE OFFICERS.

The territorial survey has brought Nebraska down to the point of her establishment as a separate state. From this point on, March, 1867, we will make a brief survey of the State Government, first; dividing it into the units of the administrations of her various governors, perhaps as expedient as any other arrangement, and at the same time, carrying along the progression of the various activities, both chronologically and topically.

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. The new Constitution (1866) provided that the senators and representatives, and the state officers should be chosen at biennial elections on the second Tuesday in October. But the election of the first set of officers took place on June 2, 1866. It was at that time Hon. T. M. Marquette was elected representative in Congress, over J. Sterling Morton, by a vote of 4,821 to 4,105. But the first regular election was held in October, 1866, even though the young state was still out of the Union, and it was then that Hon. John Taffe secured 4,820 votes while A. S. Paddock received but 4,072 and the brilliant but eccentric George Francis Train but 30. The first state governor, David Butler by a vote of 4,093 defeated J. Sterling Morton with 3,948. Associated with this first governor, furnished by Pawnee County, as the other state officers for the young state were: Thomas P. Kennard, secretary of state and librarian; John Gillespie, elected to pass from territorial to state official

family, as auditor; Augustus Kountze, treasurer, another of the territorial official family who was retained; Champion S. Chase, chosen for the new office of attorney-general. Governor Butler, a native of Indiana, who had lived in Nebraska since 1858, had a public record of service in both houses of the Territorial Legislature. He at once called a special session of the Legislature, in his proclamation of April 4th, and that session convened May 18, 1867. This session was called for the purpose of enacting laws and amending of existing statutes to harmonize with the new order of government.

Change in Capital. In the summer of 1867, the capital was formally moved from Omaha to Lincoln, in accordance with an Act of the Legislature passed the year previous. Governor Butler, Auditor Gillespie and Secretary of State Kennard had been empowered to select a site for the new capital, and after a thorough study and investigation, had chosen Lincoln.

1868. The contract for the erection of the State House was let on January 11, 1868, to Joseph Ward, Chicago, for the sum of \$49,000. The walls were constructed of magnesian limestone from the Beatrice quarries in Gage County. The building was sufficiently completed for occupancy, so that by December 3, Governor Butler issued his proclamation announcing the removal of the seat of government to Lincoln and the removal of the archives to that point.

An extra session of the Legislature convened in Omaha on October 27th, to make necessary provisions for the election of presidential electors, the existing laws being defective in this respect.

On November 3d, the citizens of Nebraska participated in the first national and state election. The republican state ticket triumphed and brought about the election of; presidential electors, supporting Gen. U. S. Grant for president and Hon. Schuyler Colfax for vice-president; T. M. Marquette, Lewis Allgewahr and J. F. Warner. For congressman, John Taffe with 8,724 votes defeated Andrew J. Poppleton, who had 6,318 votes. For governor, David Butler was re-elected over J. R. Porter, by a vote of 8,576 to 6,349. Along with them, were elected; Secretary of State, T. P. Kennard, Auditor, John Gillespie, Treasurer, James Sweet.

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1869. The fifth session of the State Legislature (incorrectly named "first regular session" on the title page of the journal) met at Lincoln, the first session to meet there after the removal to that place. It met on January 7, 1869. The officers were, Hon. E. B. Taylor, president of the senate; S. M. Chapman, Secretary; and in the house, Hon. Wm. McLennan, of Otoe County, Speaker, and John S. Bowen, chief Clerk. No particular work was laid out for this session and it was rather uneventful. Perhaps the most notable Act was the legislative establishment of the University of Nebraska, for which the corner stone was laid in September of that year, the contract having been let in August for the first building, to Silver and Son, of Logansport, Indiana. The completion of the Union Pacific Railroad was the most important event of this year, affecting Nebraska.

1870. *The sixth session of the Legislature*, assembled February 17th, called as an extraordinary session for twenty specific purposes, first among which was the ratification of the proposed fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution. The measure of greatest importance was the provision for the erection of a state penitentiary. Immediately upon the close of the sixth session, the seventh session assembled at 8:30 P. M. on March 4, 1870, Governor Butler having called

it by proclamation issued that same day. The objects enumerated by the governor were the passage of a herd law, and the ratification of a contract made by the governor for the conveyance of certain saline lands to Isaac Cohn and John M. Evans. But this session did not result in the accomplishment of the governor's desires.

The state republican convention in August, 1870, nominated John Taffe for congressman, but due to his illness and not wishing to risk a second convention, nominated J. E. LaMaster as contingent, a custom sometimes later carried out and hereinafter referred to. In the fall election of 1870, Congressman Taffe won re-election over George B. Lake, and Governor Butler won re-election over John H. Croxton, and the remainder of the republican ticket was victorious.

In October, 1870, Governor Butler appointed as delegates to the national capital removal convention, at Cincinnati, October 25th, Alvin Saunders, D. J. McCann, W. E. Dillon, A. P. Cagwell, E. S. Dundy, C. H. Gere and R. R. Livingston. Like many another political dream, this did not transpire, and neither "some point near Kearney, Nebraska," nor any other middle-western aspirant won this luscious prize.

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION. 1871. This administration started out with the eighth session of the Legislature, convening on January 5, 1871. Hon. E. E. Cunningham, of Richardson County, was president of the senate, and C. H. Walker, its secretary; and in the House, Hon. Geo. W. Collins, of Pawnee County, was speaker, and Louis E. Cropsey, chief clerk. The first struggle in this session took place over the election of a United States senator, of course to be a republican, and this brought a fierce contest between the adherents of John M. Thayer, who sought re-election; Phineas W. Hitchcock and Alvin Saunders, all of Omaha. With the aid of twelve democratic members, Hitchcock bested the others and won the honor. Governor Butler in a message to this session urged woman suffrage, an achievement to be yet forty-nine years in its final and full arrival, nationally and in Nebraska.

The Impeachment of a Governor. In spite of the rapid strides being made by this young state, everything was not to remain as serene as a summer day with her State Government.

On March 1, 1871, a committee of the house of representatives appeared before the senate of the eighth legislative session and announced that articles of impeachment had been prepared charging Gov. David Butler with misdemeanor in office and looking to his removal. Secretary of State, William H. James, was immediately notified to assume the executive functions, and the senate convened as High Court of Impeachment, on March 6th. With Governor Butler, appeared as his counsel, such illustrious legal lights of Nebraska's early bar, Clinton Briggs, T. M. Marquette and John I. Redick. Hon. J. C. Myers, J. E. Doom and DeForest Porter acted as managers of impeachment, with Experience Estabrook as counsel. Briefly summarizing the illegal and wrongful acts charged in these articles, stripped of all legal verbiage possible, the charges were:

First. Appropriating to his own use, a public lands warrant for \$16,881.26, made payable to his order, as governor, by the proper department in Washington.

Second. That, of a warrant for \$3,750 issued for services of one M. J. McBird as architect in furnishing plans and specifications for a state public building, said Butler arranged with McBird to receive only \$2,000, and he, Butler, to retain

\$1,750. And that for \$1,828.25 for other services, two warrants of \$914.13 each were issued, one received by McBird and the other used by Butler. This count also narrated demands made upon D. J. Silver & Son in reference to the State University contract; the leasing of saline lands to one Thomas F. Hall for payment of \$5,000 to Butler; and a consideration of \$750 demanded for appointment of Nelson C. Brock to office as treasurer of the university board of regents, and an attempted bribe in connection with location of state insane asylum.

Third. Inducing Auditor Gillespie to issue two \$1,000 warrants as being for Attorney Champion S. Chase, for services, but appropriated by said Butler.

Fourth. That upon a contract for \$88,000 with one Joseph Ward for building the insane asylum, when the work was not completed upon the foundation in the time named, to be for \$18,000, that he secured allowance of \$45,000.

Fifth. That as a member of the board of regents he did become a party to a contract to D. J. Silver & Son for university buildings far in excess of appropriations therefor.

Sixth. That he falsely stated in response to a legislative resolution that he had deposited \$16,881.26 received from the National Treasury.

Seventh. That he instructed State Treasurer James Sweet to let Anson C. Tichenor have a \$10,000 loan of school money, without the assent of state treasurer or auditor, and upon wholly inadequate and insufficient security.

Eighth. Upon the appropriation of \$648.13 of money from the Board of Immigration, paid into the treasury, but appropriated to his own use.

Ninth. Improperly executing patents to seventy-five sections of state land, to the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, granted by the Legislature to the Nebraska Air Line Railroad Company.

Tenth. Sold a piece of land to one James Gerrens, for \$1,920, of which he kept \$1,120.

Eleventh. Sold lots in Lincoln to Andrew J. Cropsey, for \$2,400 retaining a portion to himself.

To the above articles and specifications, Governor Butler made answer specifically and emphatically denying all articles, except the first, and to that he made a long answer in justification of his course; denying that he unlawfully and corruptly neglected to discharge his duties; that he did borrow the sum of \$16,881.26 from the state, giving therefor mortgages in terms and under conditions specifically set forth in his answer.

Space forbids a detailed account of the trial, but may it be noted especially in behalf of this first governor of the state that he was acquitted of every charge except the first. The narration of these charges herein has not been made so much for the purpose of casting any undue reflection upon Governor Butler, but to show the many pitfalls that waylaid the early government of this state, as of every other state in those formulative periods of the various commonwealths. No doubt, the punishment and disgrace felt by this political patriarch of the state's early governmental period was felt as keenly in the removal from office that resulted from the verdict of guilt on this one charge at first glance, almost the most trivial and unsubstantial of the group. Governor Butler remained under this cloud until the Legislature of 1876-77 ordered all record of the famous impeachment trial expunged from its records.

The remainder of this administration, under the leadership of Secretary of State

James, was not to be without more stirring events. An attempt was next made to impeach Auditor "Honest John" Gillespie, but these charges were soon withdrawn and the matter dropped.

An attempt was made in 1871 to provide the state with a new constitution, and a document formulated by a constitutional convention of that year, met defeat by a vote of 8,627 against to 7,986 for. It was generally conceded that certain amendments attached thereto, were not only defeated, but dragged the main effort to defeat with them.

The eighth (adjourned) session of the Legislature, met on January 9, 1872. Much bitter and rancorous feeling had been engendered by the impeachment, or what his friends called persecution, of Governor Butler, by the attempt upon Gillespie, and many came to the defense of Butler, Gillespie and Kennard, the triumvirate regarded gratefully there, as guardians of the magic city, Lincoln. The defeat of the Constitution of 1871 was followed with an attempt in this Legislature to gain re-submission, and the relations of Acting Governor (Secretary) James with some of the members was not the most cordial. A deadlock ensued upon a resolution looking to re-submission of the constitutional questions, and the house attempted to adjourn on January 24th. Acting-Governor James, by proclamation attempted to declare the Legislature no longer in session, and his action was resented by the senate, and when it reassembled on the 21st, took up the concurrent resolution of the house and agreed to it on the 24th, and then attempted to declare the office of governor vacant, and adjourned on the 24th. In the absence of Acting-Governor James from the state, his enemies got busy, and President of the Senate, Isaac S. Hascall, by a proclamation attempted to call the Legislature in special session on February 15th, for certain purposes. Notified by telegraph, James immediately issued a counter proclamation annulling the Hascall call for a special session. A few members assembled, and a test case lodged in the Supreme Court went against them, and another interesting squabble passed into history.

GOV. ROBERT W. FURNAS' ADMINISTRATION. The election of 1872 brought to the executive chair of Nebraska, a man who had been identified with Nebraska political work since in 1856, he had removed from Ohio, and commenced the publication of the Nebraska Advertiser, at Brownville. With a record as colonel in the Civil war and Indian agent of the Omaha and Winnebago Indians, and very active record of very beneficent aid to agricultural and horticultural interests of the state, his entry into this high honor was welcomed.

1873. The ninth session of the Legislature convened on January 9, 1873. This session was made memorable by the first contest over the submission of a prohibition amendment to the constitution. In February a resolution was introduced in the house for the removal of the state capital. Hon. W. A. Gwyer was president of the senate, and D. H. Wheeler, secretary; and in the house, M. H. Sessions, speaker and J. W. Eller, chief clerk. Governor Furnas vetoed a bill calling for another constitutional convention. The tenth session of the Legislature was an extra one, beginning March 27, 1873, for the purpose of taking action on the boundaries of certain counties, more specifically outlined in the chapter on county organizations.

This year saw two destructive events, sad chapters in Nebraska history, one

the terrible Easter storm, more fully treated elsewhere in this work, and the other, the first decidedly noticeable, general invasion of the state by grasshoppers.

1874. This year experienced a second general invasion of grasshoppers. The main event of this year was the general election, in which Silas Garber was elected governor, over Albert Tuxbury and J. F. Gardner.

GOVERNOR GARBER'S ADMINISTRATION. 1875. The eleventh session of the Legislature began January 7, 1875, with Hon. N. K. Briggs, as president of the senate, and D. H. Wheeler, as secretary and in the House, E. S. Towle was speaker, and G. L. Brown, chief clerk. Governor Garber had come to Nebraska from California in 1870, and settled in Webster County in 1870. He had a creditable war record, holding a captain's commission in an Iowa regiment. He had laid out the city of Red Cloud in 1872, been probate judge of Webster County and served that district as legislator. This session performed its most notable task in providing the state with a new constitution. It also witnesses a remarkable United States senatorial contest to succeed Senator Tipton, in which Algernon S. Paddock was elected.

The Constitution of 1875. A constitutional convention was held in 1875, which devised a constitution that has served the State of Nebraska for forty-five years, and which is thereby worthy of some close examination and careful reflection, and some little honor is due to its members. This constitution was adopted by a vote of 30,202 for and 5,474 against.

The vote upon this constitution is worthy of a place in our record, as it affords a good opportunity to pause and examine the growth of the state, and the numerous counties that had joined the Commonwealth since 1866.

Counties	For	Against	Counties	For	Against
Adams	729	21	Gosper	20	1
Antelope	235	8	Hall	949	4
Boone	75	63	Hamilton	811	5
Buffalo	623	17	Harlan	321	9
Burt	523	180	Hitchcock	21	5
Butler	560	3	Howard	227	..
Cass	952	971	Jefferson	498	50
Cedar	227	78	Johnson	568	127
Cheyenne	264	6	Kearney	143	1
Clay	786	3	Keith	30	..
Colfax	630	19	Knox	243	4
Cuming	830	12	Lancaster	2110	108
Dakota	262	35	Lincoln	463	16
Dawson	313	2	Madison	269	116
Dixon	363	46	Merrick	633	19
Dodge	859	218	Nemaha	913	161
Douglas	1883	350	Nuckolls	144	1
Fillmore	642	10	Otoe	640	999
Franklin	382	5	Pawnee	525	143
Furnas	266	5	Phelps	44	..
Gage	633	215	Pierce	69	27
Greeley	42	..	Platte	617	27

Counties	For	Against	Counties	For	Against
Polk	537	30	Thayer	335	10
Richardson	1991	60	Valley	65	13
Saline	1281	34	Washington	166	602
Sarpy	118	294	Wayne	59	1
Saunders	1110	172	Webster	395	9
Seward	928	36	York	766	6
Sherman	60	1			
Stanton	44	96		30,202	5,474

A condensed synopsis of this Constitution which has been in effect forty-five years, was prepared in 1880 by Harrison Johnson of Omaha, and is worthy of a place in even so brief a chronicle of the state as this one.

"Distribution of Powers. The powers of the Government of this state are divided into three distinctive departments:—Legislative, Executive, and Judicial, and no person or collection of persons, being one of these departments shall exercise any power properly belonging to any of the others. Except as hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

Legislative:—The Legislative authority is vested in a Senate and House of Representatives. (Article IV was taken up with an enumeration of the various counties that should constitute the twenty-six respective senatorial districts and fifty-two respective representative districts, in years since past increased to twenty-nine senatorial districts and seventy-seven legislative districts, thus making this portion obsolete.) The membership of the House of Representatives was fixed at eighty-four, but could be increased by law; never to exceed one hundred, nor the Senate to exceed thirty-three. The Senate and House of Representatives in joint convention shall have the sole power of impeachment, but a majority of the members elected must concur therein. The Legislature shall not pass local or special laws granting to any corporation, association, or individual, any special or exclusive privilege, immunity, franchise, whatever. Lands under control of the state shall never be donated to railroad companies, private corporations, or individuals.

Executive. The Executive Department shall consist of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings, who shall each hold his office for the term of two years, from the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January next after his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified. The governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, and treasurer shall reside at the seat of the government during their term of office, and keep the public records, books, and papers there, and shall perform such duties as may be required by law. No person shall be eligible to the office of governor or lieutenant governor who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and been for two years next preceding his election a citizen of the United States and this state. All civil officers of this state shall be liable for impeachment for any misdemeanor in office. The supreme executive powers shall be invested in the governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The governor shall be commander in chief of the military and naval forces of the state (except when they shall be called into the service of the United States), and may call out the same to execute the laws, suppress insurrection and repel invasion. In case of death,

impeachment, and notice thereof to the accused, failure to qualify, resignation, absence from the state, or other disability of the governor, the powers, duties and emoluments of the office, for the residue of the term or until the disability shall be removed, shall devolve upon the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor shall be president of the senate, and shall vote only when the senate is equally divided. The salaries of the governor, auditor of public accounts, and treasurer shall be \$2,500 each per annum, and of the secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands and buildings, \$2,000 each per annum. The lieutenant governor shall receive twice the compensation of a senator.

Judicial. The judicial power of this state shall be vested in supreme court, district courts, county courts, justice of the peace, police magistrate, and in such other courts inferior to the district court, as may be created by law for cities and incorporated towns. The supreme court shall consist of three judges, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum or pronounce a decision. It shall have original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, civil cases in which the state shall be a party, mandamus, quo warranto, habeas corpus, and such appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law; at least two terms of the supreme court shall be held each year at the seat of the government. The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the electors of the state at large, and their terms shall be six years, the state shall be divided into six judicial districts (which has since been increased to eighteen judicial districts with thirty-two district judges) in which each shall elect one judge, for a term of four years. Salary fixed for supreme and district court judges at \$2,500. (By subsequent amendments raised, supreme court, \$4,500 and district judges, \$3,000). No judge of the supreme or district court shall receive any compensation, perquisite, or benefit for or on account of his office in any form whatever, ever act as attorney or counsellor at law, in any manner whatever; nor shall any salary be paid to any county judge.

Education. The governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings shall, under the direction of the legislature, constitute a board of commissioners for the sale, leasing, and general management of all lands and funds set apart for educational purposes, and for the investment of school funds in such manner as may be prescribed by law. All funds belonging to the state for educational purposes, the interest and income whereof, only, are to be used, shall be deemed trust funds held by the state, and the state shall supply all losses thereof that may in any manner accrue so that the same shall remain forever inviolate and undiminished; and shall not be invested or loaned except on U. S. or state securities, or registered county bonds of this state, and such funds, with the interest and income thereof, are hereby solemnly pledged for the purpose for which they are granted and set apart, and shall not be transferred to any other fund for other uses. No sectarian instruction shall be allowed in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by the public funds, set apart for educational purposes; nor shall the state accept any grant, conveyance or bequests, of money, land, or other property, to be used for sectarian purpose. The Legislature may provide by law for the establishment of a school or schools for the safe-keeping, education, employment, reformation of all children under the age of sixteen years who for want of proper parental care, or other cause, are growing up in mendicancy or crime.

Counties. No new county shall be formed or established by the Legislature which will reduce the county or counties, or either of them to a less area than 400 square miles, nor shall any county be formed of a less area. No county shall be divided, nor have any part stricken therefrom without first submitting the question to a vote of the people of the county, nor unless a majority of all the legal voters of the county voting on the question shall vote for the same.

Railroad Corporations. Railroads heretofore constructed, or that may hereafter be constructed in this state, are hereby declared public highways, and shall be free to all persons, for the transportation of their persons and property thereon, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the law. And the Legislature may from time to time pass laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on the different railroads in this state. The liability of railroad corporations as common carriers shall never be limited.

Municipal Corporations. No city, county, town, precinct, municipality or other subdivision of the state shall ever become a subscriber to the capital stock or owner of such stock or any portion or interest therein, or any railroad or private corporation or association."

The Bill of Rights of this Constitution has served its purpose sufficiently well that in 1920, the Constitutional Convention allowed it to remain intact, offering one or two changes and an addition. This wonderfully drawn document of twenty-six sections; 1, established equal rights of persons; 2, prohibits slavery; 3, provides no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; 4, guarantees religious freedom; 5, guarantees freedom of speech and press; 6, provides trial by jury shall remain inviolate, and a jury of not less than twelve may be authorized; 7, search and seizure clause; 8, habeas corpus shall not be suspended; 9, bail allowed except for treason and murder; 10, indictment and information for criminal offenses; 11, rights of accused guaranteed; 12, no person compelled to give evidence against himself, or be placed twice in jeopardy; 13, justice shall be administered without delay; 14, defines treason, 15, penalties restricted; 17, military power in strict subordination to civil power; 18, soldiers not quartered on citizen in time of peace; 19, right of petition and peaceful assemblage shall not be abridged; 20, no imprisonment for debt; 21, no private property taken for public use without just compensation; 22, free elections and use of elective franchise; 23, writ of error fortified; 24, appeals in civil cases not to be denied; 25, no distinction to be made in property rights of aliens, and 26, powers not enumerated in this constitution retained by the people.

The personnel of this convention presented names of numerous members who later became very prominent in Nebraska's public affairs. The president of the convention, John Lee Webster, is forty-five years later one of the leading members of the Nebraska Bar and one of the steadfast patrons of Nebraska's Historical Society and all efforts to preserve Nebraska's records and story. Its secretary, Guy A. Brown, later served as clerk of the supreme court and state librarian. A son of one member, A. J. Weaver, of Richardson County, in 1920, served as president of the next Constitutional Convention. Another member, O. A. Abbott, also a member of the Convention of 1871, and the state's first lieutenant governor, is still practicing law in Grand Island, in 1921, after fifty-three years active practice at the Hall County Bar and indefatigably supported the 1920 series of amendments, with few exceptions.

Three members of this body became United States Senators, M. L. Hayward, Chas. F. Manderson and C. H. Van Wyck. Two, J. E. Boyd and J. W. Dawes became governor of the state. Several, Jefferson H. Broady, S. B. Pound, Samuel Maxwell, M. B. Reese, W. H. Munger, A. J. Weaver, became judges of the state and federal courts; and two or three became members of Congress, and a dozen others very prominent in the various walks of life.

The members of this convention were:

John Lee Webster, President

O. A. Abbott	James W. Dawes	J. H. Sauls
Samuel Maxwell	R. F. Stevenson	A. G. Kendall
Andrew Hallner	Jacob Vallery, Sr.	S. H. Coats
Luke Agur	J. E. Doom	C. H. Frady
John McPherson	S. R. Foss	Charles F. Walther
J. D. Hamilton	C. H. Van Wyck	R. C. Eldridge
J. P. Becker	W. L. Dunlap	Joseph Garber
W. H. Munger	Jefferson H. Broady	A. M. Walling
James Harper	S. B. Pound	J. G. Ewan
J. E. Boyd	M. L. Hayward	C. H. Gere
J. H. Perry	Charles H. Brown	T. L. Warrington
Robt. B. Harrington	Isaac Powers, Jr.	James Laird
Clinton Briggs	D. P. Henry	Henry Grebe
C. W. Pierce	S. F. Burch	A. J. Weaver
J. B. Hawley	M. B. Reese	Chas. F. Manderson
H. H. Shedd	B. I. Hinman	Edwin N. Grenell
S. M. Kirkpatrick	S. H. Calhoun	M. W. Wilcox
A. H. Conner	W. M. Robertson	Frank Martin
George S. Smith	M. R. Hopewell	George L. Griffing
John J. Thompson	E. C. Carns	J. F. Zediker
W. B. Cummins	Josiah Rogers	A. W. Matthews
W. H. Sterns	C. E. Hunter	William A. Gwyer
L. B. Thorne	T. S. Clark	

Guy A. Brown, Secretary

C. L. Mather, Assistant Secretary

1876. The grasshopper scourge, which had continued through 1875, was still a perplexing problem to the people of Nebraska, and in October of this year a meeting of numerous western governors was called to discuss this trouble. In the political campaign of this year Governor Garber was renominated and re-elected.

The twelfth session of the legislature was called to meet on December 5, 1876, to pass upon the question of the legality of the election of Amasa Cobb to the office of presidential elector, and Judge Cobb was chosen by ballot, in joint convention of both houses. The thirteenth session was held on the same day, December 5, for the purpose of canvassing the popular vote cast for the state ticket and congressmen.

1877. GOVERNOR GARBER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The fourteenth session of the Legislature convened in regular session, January 2, 1877. The Senate, with the advent of the lieutenant governor as a state officer now took a little different form in its presiding officiate. Lieutenant Governor Othman A. Abbott became the regular presiding officer, Senator George F. Blanchard became President pro tempore, and D. H. Wheeler was secretary. In the House, Hon. Albinus

Nance was speaker and B. D. Slaughter, chief clerk. In the usual contest for United States Senator, Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders won. Another energetic attempt to remove the Capital from Lincoln ensued, and failed, and this question quieted down until 1911. One of the important pieces of legislation at this session was the passage of a bill forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors within three miles of any place where a religious society was assembled for religious worship in a field or woodland. Grasshopper legislation played an important part. Other subjects were the creation of a state board of immigration, and provisions regulating the submission of amendments to the Constitution.

1878. In May of this year, Judge Daniel E. Ganitt, chief justice of the state supreme court died, and in a few days following, Hon. Amasa Cobb was appointed to fill the vacancy on that court. The President approved the bill in June, to permit holding United States district and circuit court at Lincoln. Steps were taken in August toward the organization of a state historical society. The banner of the republican state ticket was led in this year by Albinus Nance as the victorious gubernatorial candidate.

1879. GOVERNOR NANCE'S ADMINISTRATION. The Eighth Legislature convened in fifteenth session, January 7, 1879, and adjourned on February 25. Lieut. Gov. Edmund C. Carns, presiding over the Senate, with Hon. William Marshall, as president pro tem., and Sherwood Burr, secretary; and in the House, Hon. C. P. Mathewson was speaker, and B. D. Slaughter again chief clerk. This legislature made provision that all impeachments of state officers should be tried by the supreme court, except for supreme judges, by all district judges. The new United States court house and postoffice at Lincoln was completed and ready for occupancy in January. A legislative investigation of the University was a feature of this year's session. Ex-President Grant visited Omaha during November of this year.

1880. In the political campaign of this year, the republicans accorded a renomination to Governor Nance, who led the state ticket to victory again.

1881. GOVERNOR NANCE'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The ninth legislature in sixteenth session convened January 4, 1881, and remained in session until February 26th. Lieutenant Governor Carns presided over the Senate, with John B. Dinsmore, of Clay County, as President pro tem., and Sherwood Burr, remaining as secretary. In the House, H. H. Shedd of Saunders County was speaker and B. D. Slaughter remained chief clerk. Van Wyck won the U. S. senatorship over Paddock in this session. The really important achievement of this session was the initiation of the Slocumb Law. This Act gave the local licensing boards discretionary power, and so increased the license fee, that it materially decreased the number of saloons, and for more than forty years remained a very effective weapon of regulation, until statewide prohibition came. The high skill of the work of John H. Ames, and his colleagues Alexander H. Connor, of Kearney, and Stephen H. Calhoun, of Nebraska City, as the committee on revision which had this act in charge, and their assisting colleagues in this session of the legislature was attested by the fact that no changes were later made in this act, in more than forty years of its active usefulness.

This year, 1881, saw the formal organization of a movement destined to grow into importance, The Farmer's Alliance. Another organization destined to play a persistent part and put up a hopeful struggle for many years, was the Nebraska

woman suffrage association, which had a 49 year struggle before it was to see the full accomplishment of its hopes, in 1920. A woman suffrage amendment was pushed through the House in 1881, but a prohibition amendment failed that year. This was a year of great floods, with their attendant distress and disaster, especially at Lincoln, Omaha, Nebraska City, Humboldt, Roca, Sterling, and Brownville. Ex-Senator P. W. Hitchcock, father of Nebraska's present U. S. Senator, G. M. Hitchcock (1920), died on July 10th.

1882. A strike on the B. & M. Railroad of laborers necessitated calling eight companies of militia and three companies of regulars in March. In April, Governor Nance called the Legislature to meet on May 2d in special session (the tenth special session), and it convened for a session of thirteen business days, terminating on May 24th. Its call showed among other purposes were to divide the state into three congressional districts, regulate the powers of cities of first class, and assign Custer County; to provide for expenses incurred in quelling the recent riots in Omaha, mentioned above, and to give assent to the act of Congress to extend the northern boundary of the state. A report was made upon a voluminous investigation of bribery charges that had been made, growing out of railroad legislation in the session of 1881. The men involved were acquitted, but the member in question and the lieutenant governor found to have merited the solemn criticism of the House, but the substitute motion providing for the same lost by one vote. This year saw the organization of a state anti-monopoly league at Lincoln, and also in the fall, an anti-prohibition convention was held at Omaha. A greenback convention was held at Lincoln, in September.

We are now approaching a decade, in which for something less than ten years a series of unsuccessful attempts were made to procure reform legislation, and to combat the insidious hold that had been gained by the railroad interests upon the political affairs of the state. This had been attained by a most liberal use of the "pass privilege" not only to state officials, legislators, court officials and employes, but to professional men and political workers in almost every community and in those days was hardly considered "wrong" as it is viewed in the early years of the twentieth century. The Omaha Bee, in these early years of the eighties often waxed very defiant of the "corporation control" of the dominant party, the republican. The republicans nominated James W. Dawes, of Saline County, for governor, and the democrats chose J. Sterling Morton. In their platform they attacked the issuance of free passes to public officers and sought legislation against the practice and generally denounced railroad interference with political conventions. Dawes easily defeated Morton, and the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution was defeated almost two to one. But the democrats elected their candidate for state treasurer this year.

1883. GOVERNOR DAWES' FIRST ADMINISTRATION. The tenth legislature, in eighteenth session, convened January 2, 1883, adjourning on February 26. Lieut. Gov. Alfred N. Agee was president of the Senate, with Alexander H. Connor, of Buffalo County, president pro tem., and G. L. Brown, as secretary, succeeding Sherwood Burr, who had served for three terms. In the House, George M. Humphrey, of Pawnee County, was speaker, and D. B. Slaughter, for his fifth successive term, was chief clerk. Charles F. Manderson was elected United States Senator to succeed Saunders. The democrats instead of making hay while the anti-monopoly sun was rising, supported their two strong, but rather reactionary party leaders, Morton and

J. E. Boyd. Of course, in those days, just as now, forty years later, each party had its two widely divergent elements, radical or progressive as now called, and ultra-conservative, or reactionary, as in modern parlance, termed. With four of her sons on the republican ticket holding a very even lead at the start, Manderson, Saunders, then senator, J. H. Millard and John C. Cowin, Douglas County was pretty sure of the prize. The construction of the new capitol was authorized at this session. Judicial districts in the state were increased from the constitutional number of six, to ten. Legislative investigation ensued for both the insane hospital and the penitentiary. An attempt to create a railroad commission passed the House, but failed in the Senate. A dozen other proposed measures reflected the growing anti-railroad monopoly feeling. The construction of the capitol was moving along. The west wing, finally constructed at a total cost of \$83,178.81, was finished by the close of 1881, and Contractor Stout finished the east wing, at a final cost of \$108,247.92, in 1882.

1884. In their May convention the republicans of the state tabled, by a small margin, a motion to declare a preference for James G. Blaine. In the August convention, the republicans re-nominated Dawes for governor, while the democrats for a third time chose J. Sterling Morton, to face defeat. An amendment to extend legislative sessions carried this year, but the one to provide a railroad commission failed. The corner-stone of the state capitol was laid on July 15th.

1885. **GOVERNOR DAWES' SECOND ADMINISTRATION.** The eleventh legislature met, in nineteenth session, January 6, 1885. Its adjournment was on March 5th. Lieutenant Governor Shedd was president and Church Howe, president pro tem., and Sherwood Burr returned for another session as secretary; while in the House, Allen W. Field of Lincoln was speaker, and J. F. Zedicker was chief clerk. There was a legislative investigation of school funds, and appropriations provided for many unfinished matters from prior years.

1886. In January of this year, the supreme court decided that counties must pay for the upkeep of their insane patients. The republicans in this year chose General John M. Thayer as their successful standard-bearer, and his opponent was James E. North, of Columbus.

1887. **GOVERNOR THAYER'S ADMINISTRATION.** The twelfth legislature, met in twentieth session, on January 4, 1887, and stayed until March 31st. Lieut. Gov. H. H. Shedd, presided over the Senate, with George D. Meiklejohn, of Nance County, as president pro tem., and W. M. Seeley as Secretary; while in the House, N. V. Harlan of York was speaker, and B. D. Slaughter, again chief clerk. A bureau of labor was established at this session, as was a state board of pharmacy. This latter consisted of the attorney-general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and commissioner of public lands and buildings. A state inspector of oils, at \$2,000 per annum was provided for. The labor bureau was one destined not to become of great importance until some thirty years later. These boards are mentioned at this point, mainly, as being the early members of a flock of such boards that sprang up in the following three decades. The old Constitution of 1875 did not allow the formation of new executive offices. This was circumvented, as the necessity for further bureaus and state departments became evident and pressing, by creating boards or bureaus, with the governor and other state elective officers as members, or head, and then providing for a deputy, or secretary, or inspector, who drew the salary, conducted the department, and was particularly, the "political general."

This continued until in 1915, when under Governor Morehead, consolidation of these departments, and bureaus, then numbering almost thirty, was begun, and in 1919, when under Governor McKelvie, the new Civil Administrative Code was enacted, around twenty such boards, commissions and bureaus still existed, and the Constitutional Convention of 1920 provided for the creation of new departments, and new executive officers, to do away with this process of circumvention, and duplication.

The session of 1885, provided for a three cent passenger fare, reducing the existing three and half and four cent a mile rates. The board of railroad commissioners was abolished and a "board of transportation" established. In January, 1887, the first state convention of Woman Suffrage Society was addressed by Miss Susan B. Anthony. Algernon S. Paddock, who had been territorial secretary with Governor Saunders in the last years preceding statehood, was elected United State Senator, the office some years before held by Saunders. In March of this year, George L. Miller retired from the editorship of the World-Herald. Dr. Miller generally allied with the faction of which Boyd was another leader and opposed to the Morton faction was a great factor in the party proceedings of those days. Arrayed likewise against the shrewd and aggressive Edward Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, the keen rivalry, and what even might be termed feud, of those two great state newspapers was engendered. An asylum for the insane was located at Hastings in this 1887 session. In October of this year, President Grover Cleveland stopped in Omaha. In November, the supreme court of the state upheld the power of the new board of transportation to fix rates. In this same month, Mayor A. J. Sawyer and the city council of Lincoln were incarcerated in the Douglas County jail, and fined for contempt by Judge Brewer, but ten days later released by order of U. S. Attorney General Garland. This action arose from a hearing before the city council in which the police judge was being tried upon charges of accepting fines from certain law violating interests upon immunity for their acts. During an adjournment after which the entire council was to pass upon the defendant's case, the order was secured at St. Louis interfering with the council's course; and when the council later removed the police judge and appointed another, the "fireworks" started.

1888. In January, the U. S. supreme court reversed Circuit Judge Brewer's decision in the habeas corpus case of the Lincoln city council. The Union Pacific obtained an injunction to restrain the board of transportation from interfering with their scale of rates. January 12, Nebraska was visited by the great blizzard, elsewhere treated in this work. In February, the great railroad strike on the Burlington started, and in March, Judge Dundy granted the railroad an injunction against the strikers. This was a presidential campaign year, and in the outset, Nebraska took one notable part when John M. Thurston was made temporary chairman of the national republican convention at Chicago. Governor Thayer was accorded a renomination by the republicans, and his opponent was John A. McShane of Omaha. In their platform this year, the democrats began what developed into an habitual pounding of the republican creation, "a trust."

1889. GOVERNOR THAYER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The thirteenth legislature met in eleventh regular session (dropping a count of the ten extra sessions) January 1, 1889, and remained in session until March 30th, the sixty-seventh day. Geo. D. Meiklejohn, the president pro tem., of the last Senate now presided in his

clear right as lieutenant governor, with Church Howe again president pro tem., and W. M. Seeley again secretary while in the House. John C. Watson, of Otoe County, was speaker, and Bradner D. Slaughter, of Nance County, for the seventh and last time was chief clerk. Agitation over Attorney-General Leese's report favoring throwing the Union Pacific Railroad into receivership, selling it and having the state control it; over having a state railroad commission, and over the Omaha police commission law were features of the opening of this session. It was a fairly quiet, and somewhat reactionary session, ominous of the storm about to break forth in Nebraska politics in the next few years. Among the three amendments to the constitution which this legislature submitted, two respecting increase of supreme judges from three to five, and the salaries to \$3,500 and district judges' salaries at \$3,000 the remaining one was the really important step of the session. This was the submission of prohibition to a vote of the people. The wording of this amendment was "The manufacture, sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage are forever prohibited in this state, and the legislature shall provide by law for the enforcement of this provision." The democrats opposed it and the republicans were somewhat divided. A. E. Cady offered an additional proposition, that "The manufacture and sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage shall be licensed and regulated by law." Charles F. Manderson was re-elected U. S. Senator, the first of Nebraska senators to be accorded a re-election to a full second term of another six years, Tipton having only served a partial term before his re-election.

Forecasting the growing influence of the Farmers' Alliance movement, was the filing of articles of incorporation with capital stock at \$150,000 of the Custer County Farmers' Alliance purchasing and selling corporation. Congressman James Laird died at Hastings, in August of this year. In September, the Union Pacific Railroad employes at Omaha federated in the Brotherhood of Railway Employees, another movement portending future developments. In October, occurred the death of Hon. Guy A. Brown, state librarian and clerk of the state supreme court.

1890. In January, the state board of agriculture located the state fair at Lincoln for five years; and the central shops of the Burlington were located at Havelock in the summer of this year. A conference of anti-monopoly republicans was held in May. This was the year in which the populist outbreak started in Nebraska. On July 29th, a state convention met at Lincoln, composed of representatives of the Farmers' Alliance, State Grange and Knights of Labor, and this body nominated for governor, John H. Powers, of Hitchcock County, president of the Alliance. Charles H. VanWyck was his chief contender for this nomination, and then refused to take the consolation prize of a congressional nomination. To add to the growing confusion, Governor Thayer had in May issued a call for a special session of the legislature to convene on June 5th. Its purposes were to abolish the transportation board, pass a maximum railroad rate law, adopt the Australian ballot and act upon currency legislation. The furore created by this move forced its recall and revocation within a week. The republicans in July nominated for governor, Lucius D. Richards, of Dodge County, and the democrats chose James E. Boyd. Another milestone in this year's campaign was the nomination for Congress in the first district of William J. Bryan. Boyd for governor received 71,331 votes, Powers, 70,137, and so complete was the revulsion that Richards, the republican, ran third with 68,878, but the rest of the republican state ticket pulled

through by small majorities, ranging close to 4,000. To Congress the opposing candidates were elected and republicans beaten in each district, William J. Bryan defeating Wm. J. Connell; William A. McKeighan defeating N. V. Harlan; Omer M. Kem defeating both Dorsey, republican, and W. H. Thompson, democrat. The prohibition amendment was defeated by a vote of 82,293 for and 111,728 against; a majority against it being but a few thousand more than the majority of over 22,000 cast against it in Douglas County. During this year, the citizens in the western part of the state were suffering from the loss of their crops. Despite the denial of Governor Thayer in March that any of the people in Nebraska needed help, in April, the governor and Robert R. Greer, president of the state board of agriculture, appealed to the state to aid the settlers in Cheyenne, Kimball, Scotts Bluff and Banner counties, and in November, the governor and the mayor of Lincoln joined in a call for a meeting to devise means to help these western settlers in the state. Rev. Geo. W. Martin was appointed superintendent of relief and Rev. Luther P. Ludden, superintendent of distribution of this work, and about ten days later an advisory board and treasurer were appointed. In December, the citizens of Chadron appealed for protection from the Indians, and one of Governor Thayer's last important official acts was to send to them one company of militia from Long Pine and order companies at Fremont, Tekamah and Central City to be in readiness. About a week later he had to order out another company of militia to quell impending riots in the legislative hall. The exit of Governor Thayer from the executive duties was occasioned with considerable stir and excitement. He refused to turn over the governorship to James E. Boyd, and fortified the executive offices. So the state had two governors. Thayer held down the regular executive offices and Boyd established himself in the old board of transportation quarters. Thayer then applied to the supreme court for a writ of quo warranto against Governor-elect Boyd, and on January 15, Thayer vacated the executive offices, surrendering to Governor-elect Boyd, reserving any rights he might have thereto until the decision of the supreme court could be forthcoming. On February 6th the two governors delivered their message to the Legislature.

GOVERNOR BOYD'S ADMINISTRATION. 1891. The fourteenth legislature convened in the twelfth regular session on January 6th, and remained in session for seventy-one days, the longest record then attained by any session, with adjournment on April 4th. Thomas J. Majors, so long a prominent figure in Nebraska governmental circles, was presiding officer of the Senate, as lieutenant governor, and W. A. Poynter, later governor, as president pro tem.; with C. H. Pirtle as secretary; while in the house, Hon. Samuel M. Elder, independent, of Clay County, was speaker, and Eric Johnson, chief clerk. While in this initial campaign the independents had not won the governorship, they took all of the elective offices of both houses unto themselves. A controversy arose over the right of retiring Lieutenant-Governor Meiklejohn to preside over the joint convention of the two houses, which was claimed by Speaker Elder, so that the election of Boyd might be declared. Then to add to the confusion, the contest of Powers against Boyd's election came on for hearing, based upon a claim that while Boyd appeared to have a plurality of 1,114 votes over the other candidates, some 2,000 persons were bribed in Douglas County to vote for Boyd. What a trial might have disclosed will never be known, for a most emphatic denial of any trial cut short this contest. The advent of Gov-

ernor Boyd's administration, following the victorious battle of Wounded Knee, which brought into practicability the recall of the Nebraska troops upon advice of safety by Major General Miles, faced that situation fairly well cleared up. It was in this session that the Australian ballot act received its enactment. The census of 1890 made possible the increase of congressional districts from three to six, and of judicial districts from twelve to fifteen. A girl's industrial home was provided for at Geneva. There was appropriated \$100,000 for the drought-stricken sections of the state; the relief commissioners named were, Samuel M. Elder, Luther P. Ludden, R. R. Greer, Louis Meyer, George W. Martin, John Fitzgerald, Andrew J. Sawyer, Charles W. Mosher, J. W. Hartley and W. N. Nason. The Newberry Railroad Bill, which was passed in the Legislature after a three-day deadlock, and then vetoed by Governor Boyd stirred up further confusion. While the political campaign of 1891 was in an off-year, it bristled with demands for an amendment providing for a railroad commission; for relief from the exorbitant freight rates, with the "free coinage of silver" slipping in. In March, the state supreme court had overruled Governor Boyd's motion to dismiss the quo-warranto case, and required him to answer, and in May, the state supreme court declared Governor Boyd ineligible to the office, and Governor John M. Thayer was re-instated, because Governor Boyd's citizenship was questioned, it being claimed his father's naturalization papers in Ohio were taken out after Boyd became of age, and did not thereby enfranchise the son. President Harrison visited Nebraska in May of this year; Ex-Governor David Butler dropped dead at his home near Pawnee City, May 25th, and in August, Judge Oliver P. Mason died in Lincoln.

1892. On February 8, 1892, the Supreme Court of the United States overruled the Nebraska court and declared that Governor James E. Boyd was a citizen, and thereby eligible and entitled to the office of governor, and again the executive honors were switched from Thayer to Boyd. A week later the democrats of the state gathered in Lincoln and celebrated the installation of Governor Boyd, and in April, the state supreme court denied the motion of Thayer to re-open this contest or case with Boyd. In this month, April, the U. S. Senate passed a bill reimbursing Nebraska for the moneys spent in the Sioux uprising the year before. On July 2d, the national convention of the People's Independent (Populist) party convened at Omaha, and there drew up a platform that in the succeeding thirty-eight years has ranked as one of the most wonderfully progressive and prophetic political documents in American political history. The republicans took a stand behind Senator Paddock for re-election and for Benjamin Harrison for President, and when the democrats met that year, a procedure that was to become a habit in after-years started, with W. J. Bryan stirring the convention and placing it up against knotty problems of remaining conservative or stepping ahead progressively. Although for a time properly squelched, Bryan nevertheless added his resolution for "free coinage of silver." But despite the stormy scenes and the dramatic avowal of Bryan when questioned if he was not for Cleveland, that he was for Horace E. Boies of Iowa for President, the Cleveland forces maintained their position, and the majority report was adopted. The People's Independent convention for state nomination was held late in June and resulted in the nomination again of John H. Powers. The republicans chose former Supreme Court Justice Lorenzo Crounse, over Thomas J. Majors, whose nomination had even been seconded by his old time political and personal rival, Church Howe. Powers, the candidate

of the first independent convention, refused to stand for the same honor at the second people's independent convention in August, and Charles H. VanWyck, this time, won the nomination. In the democratic convention, a revulsion of sentiment caused largely by the veto of the Newberry Bill had swamped Governor Boyd. Samuel N. Wolbach of Hall and Frank P. Ireland of Otoe were under consideration for the gubernatorial nomination, but both withdrew and the plum swiftly went to J. Sterling Morton, arch-enemy to the Miller-Boyd faction. A truly aggressive campaign followed, with the election of Crounse resulting; the vote standing Crounse, 78,426, VanWyck, 68,617 and Morton, 44,195. Bryan, for Congress, defeated Allen W. Field; McKeighan was re-elected over William E. Andrews, and Kem defeated Whitehead, in the first, fifth and sixth districts respectively. This campaign had been enlivened by joint debates between Bryan and Field, and between McKeighan and Andrews, which still lurk in the memories of the older citizens of the state. Hon. G. M. Lambertson, a Nebraska citizen, who had served as counsel for the Interstate Commerce Commission, in December, 1892, assumed the duties of assistant secretary of the treasury.

GOVERNOR CROUNSE'S ADMINISTRATION. 1893. In January of this year, the Capital National Bank in Lincoln failed, and on February 1st, an indictment was returned against President C. W. Mosher. Out of this failure grew famous litigation, the fag-ends of which are still in the courts, twenty-seven years later (1920). The fifteenth legislature met in twenty-third session (13th regular) on January 3, 1893, and remained until April 8th. Lieutenant Governor Majors remained as presiding officer of the Senate, with E. M. Correll, of Hebron, Thayer County, as president pro tem., and H. A. Edwards, of Grand Island, as secretary. In the House, J. N. Gaffin, independent, of Saunders, was elected speaker and Eric Johnson again served as chief clerk. Another Newberry railroad bill fixing freight rates and classification was passed at this session. In the election for United States Senator, William V. Allen, independent, defeated Senator Paddock. There had been many other candidates and John M. Thurston had once been within three votes of election. Impeachment proceedings, directed against Secretary of State John C. Allen, commissioner of public lands and buildings Augustus R. Humphrey, Attorney-General George H. Hastings and Treasurer John E. Hill, were launched by passage of a resolution through the House. The three attorneys chosen were, Stephen B. Pound, republican, William L. Greene, democrat, and George W. Doane, democrat, in place of Eleazer Wakeley, who did not care to serve. The specifications were mainly directed at acts of these officers as members of board of public lands and buildings, in relation to the conduct of the penitentiary, and the construction of a cell house there. The whole affair led to considerable investigation among the different state institutions. Gross corruption and mismanagement were found at the penitentiary, and even worse conditions reported at the insane asylum; Superintendent Mallileu of the Kearney Industrial Home was exonerated from charges of misappropriation of funds; impeachment proceedings against Ex-Treasurer Hill, Ex-Auditor Thomas Benton were dismissed on the ground they had retired from office, as was the case against Attorney-General Leese, and the cases against Humphrey, Hastings and Allen were dropped on technical grounds, without determination of the facts.

Nebraska had for the first time been honored with a national cabinet portfolio, when J. Sterling Morton was appointed secretary of agriculture by President

Cleveland, in 1892. On April 22, the employees of that department at Washington planted a white oak tree in the honor of this "father of Arbor Day." In July of this year, President Mosher of the defunct Capital National Bank was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Legislation was started this summer to prevent the board of transportation from reducing freight rates. In September, Congressman W. J. Bryan introduced a bill for the guarantee of national bank deposits, which may have then been a futile effort, but which forecast one of the progressive reforms to come some twenty years later.

1894. In January, the state supreme court declared the law for deposit of state funds not in conflict with the Constitution. It was in this year that the terribly destructive hot winds, and lack of rain, destroyed the crops in the state and plunged Nebraska into the terrible, never-forgotten drought period. The republicans decided to buck the oncoming wave of radicalism with their stalwart conservative, Thomas J. Majors, while the people's independent party nominated for governor, Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow, upon the first ballot, and the democrats after endorsing William J. Bryan for U. S. senator split into two camps; one staying by their colors and endorsing Holcomb, and thus taking the first step in fusion. The bolters went to another hall and nominated John A. McShane for governor. The increasing hard times had not only brought Bryan back to a position where he was endorsed by the party that so emphatically repudiated him two years before, but they swept Judge Holcomb into the governor's chair. But fusion prevailed this time only on the head of the ticket, and except for Kem, the republicans won out in congressional contests. In November, 1894, Judge Brewer of the United States Circuit Court declared the Newberry Bill unconstitutional. In December, Turner M. Marquette, whose career in Nebraska political affairs dated from territorial days, died at Plattsmouth.

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. 1895. On January 5, Silas A. Holcomb, the first fusion or populist governor was inaugurated. The sixteenth legislature, in twenty-fourth session convened this week, and adjourned April 5th. Lieut. Gov. Robert E. Moore, of Lancaster County, was president, with John C. Watson, of Otoe County, president pro tem., and T. E. Sedgwick, of York, secretary. Charles L. Richards of Thayer County was Speaker of the House, and W. M. Geddes, chief clerk. This legislature restored the sugar bounty repealed by its predecessor. It made an appropriation for drought sufferers, and a still larger one for supplying seed and food for teams during the spring of 1895. Illustrative of how far reaching the slightest acts or most thoughtless votes of a legislator may prove to be "chickens that long after came home to roost"—is the incident, that one member of this 1895 legislature voted against this seed measure and twenty-one years later when running for governor and calling attention to the fact that he had once homesteaded in Nebraska, this "vote" was most decisively used by the opposition in contributing to his defeat. There was little real notable legislation passed at this session. John M. Thurston won the U. S. senatorship at the hands of this session. Governor Holcomb vetoed both the sugar bounty and chicory bounty bill, and both were passed over his veto. The governor approved a resolution designating Nebraska as "treeplanter's state" and this same session named the goldenrod as the state flower.

1896. In January, Senator W. V. Allen introduced a bill in the United States senate providing for a Trans-Mississippi exposition. In March of this year,

Senator Allen declined to be populist candidate for president. But a few months later, another Nebraskan, most unexpectedly to the country in general, won the democratic nomination, and the campaign of 1896, between William McKinley of Ohio, and William Jennings Byran, was one that will never be forgotten by any citizen, over five years of age at that time, as long as he can remember anything. In March, State Engineer R. B. Howell resigned from the state board of irrigation. Eighteen years later he was the gubernatorial candidate of the republican party. The republicans in Nebraska in convention on April 15th, declared for William McKinley for president. May 15th, W. J. Byran and Edward Rosewater debated the question of free silver at Omaha, and on July 3rd, Byran debated this question with John P. Irish at Crete, and one week later, he was nominated for president at Chicago. July 17th, Lincoln had a wild demonstration in honor of its presidential candidate. Byran was nominated by the silver republican national convention at St. Louis on July 24th, and on July 25th, with Watson, by the populist national convention. In November, Nebraska gave her own candidate her electoral vote, but he met defeat in the nation. In the state campaign, the republicans duplicated the conservative Major's nomination of 1894, with that of an alleged railroad adherent, John H. McCall of Dawson County, who was defeated by Governor Holcomb. In the congressional contests, the republicans saved J. B. Strode in the first and David H. Mercer in the second districts; and the fusionists won Samuel Maxwell, over Ross L. Hammond; William F. Stark defeating Eugene J. Hainer in the fourth; Roderick D. Sutherland over William E. Andrews in the fifth, and William L. Greene over Addison E. Cady in the sixth.

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1897. The seventeenth legislature met in twenty-fifth session, January 5th and remained until April 9th, Lieut. Gov. James E. Harris was president of the senate, with Frank T. Ransom, silver republican, Douglas County, as president pro tem., and W. F. Schwind, as secretary. In the house, James N. Gaffin, independent, of Saunders County, was elected to the speakership he had held four years before, and F. D. Eager was chief clerk. This session threatened to pass some of the reform legislation to be forthcoming in a decade or so, such as anti-pass and two cent passenger fare bills, but failed. It did accomplish a stock yard regulatory measure. In January, President Cleveland and his cabinet decided that the Union Pacific Railroad must be sold, and a petition for foreclosure of the government mortgage on that road was filed in the office of clerk of the United States Circuit Court. In February, the Legislature appointed a joint committee to make recommendation concerning defalcations and embezzlement by Ex-Treasurer Joseph S. Bartley, who was soon thereafter placed under arrest, as was likewise Ex-State Auditor Eugene Moore. Another conflict in this session arose from the sargent-at-arms and a committee of the house of representatives seizing the ballots from the state canvassing board, and the state supreme court denied a writ of mandamus to compel the canvassing board to continue a recount of the ballots on certain constitutional amendments.

In April George D. Meiklejohn was appointed assistant secretary of war by President McKinley. The Trans-Mississippi exposition was formally dedicated on April 22nd, by laying of the corner-stone of the arch marking the entrance to the grounds. In June the state supreme court decided that the constitutional amendment increasing the number of judges of that court from three to five had not

been adopted by the people. On June 26th, Ex-Treasurer Bartley was sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$303,768.90. On June 29th, another wheel horse of Nebraska republicanism was rewarded, Church Howe being appointed to consul-general post at Apia, Samoa, which post was taken by Judge Osborne of Blair and Howe given a better location at Palermo, Italy. In September Ex-State Auditor Moore pleaded guilty to embezzlement, and on November 30th, was sentenced for eight years in penitentiary. Ex-United States Senator Paddock died in October at his home in Beatrice. Ex-Auditor Gillespie of territorial and state government died in Lincoln on December 19th. December 20th, suit was filed by the state against Bartley and his bondsmen for \$335,000, of school funds lost, and the week later the state sued Omaha National Bank for \$201,884.05 arising out of the Bartley defalcation, and on January 5, 1898 the Supreme Court affirmed the judgement of the lower court in the Bartley case.

1898. In February, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of \$100,000 exposition bonds voted by Douglas County. In February, the Supreme Court reversed the conviction of Ex-Auditor Moore and he was released. In the same month, the bondsmen in the Bartley case won a verdict, and an indictment was returned by a grand jury against Moore on another matter.

Nebraska in the Spanish-American War. In this year the Spanish-American war broke out, and on April 25th, Nebraska was called upon to furnish two regiments of infantry. The First and Second Nebraska regiments of national guard were ordered mustered in at Lincoln at once.

On May 14th, Governor Holcomb proclaimed the Trans-Mississippi exposition opening day, June 1st, a public holiday. On May 16th, the First Nebraska regiment entrained for the Philippines. This regiment went into its Philippines camp, July 17, 1898. It participated in an attack on Manila on August 13th, and took part in numerous other engagements. It was mustered out at San Francisco, August 23, 1899. It had a total enrollment of 1,376. Its colonel was John P. Bratt; its lieutenant colonels were George R. Coulton, Frank D. Eager and Majors John M. Stotsenburg, H. B. Mulford, Fred A. Williams, Wallace C. Taylor and J. N. Kilian. The second Nebraska entered into service in April, 1898, and remained until mustered out on October 24, 1898. It was ordered to Chickamauga Park, Georgia, and lost twenty-six by death and eight by accident and was denied actual fighting service. Col. C. J. Bills was commanding, with Emil Olson, lieutenant colonel and as Majors William S. Mapes and Ernest H. Tracy. It has enrolled a total of forty-six officers and 1,366 enlisted men. The third Nebraska was organized with Col William Jennings Bryan at its head. On July 13, 1898, it went to Jacksonville, Florida, and thence to Havana, Cuba. In April, 1899, it came back to Augusta, Georgia, and was mustered out. Victor Vifquain and John H. McClay were Lieut. Cols. and Majors were Conrad F. Scharman and Harry S. Dungan. Troop K of Milford, under Capt. Jacob H. Culver, organized as Troop A, Cavalry went to Chickamauga, and was mustered out in September, 1898.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition was successfully conducted during the balance of 1898, and held over until 1899. The executive committee who so ably assisted President Gurdon W. Wattles in the successful accomplishment of this venture, were Z. T. Lindsay, Edward Rosewater, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, E. E. Bruce, A. L. Reed, F. P. Kirkendall and W. N. Babcock. This wonderful show contributed very much toward advertising Nebraska most thoroughly to the entire nation and even

the world. In June, the supreme court reaffirmed the Bartley conviction, and in July, he started to serve his twenty year sentence. The state campaign was not entirely lost sight of in this war and exposition year, and the populists, democrats and silver republicans "fused" upon the nomination of William A. Poynter as governor, and in the fall election he defeated Monroe L. Hayward for governor.

GOVERNOR POYNTER'S ADMINISTRATION. 1899. The Legislature which met this year saw the return of the republicans to power in legislative halls. With Lieut. Gov. E. A. Gilbert of York as presiding officer of the senate, Adolph R. Talbot of Lincoln was president pro tem., and Alpha Morgan, republican, Broken Bow, secretary; and in the house, Paul F. Clark of Lancaster County, was speaker, with John Wall, of Arcadia, Valley County, as chief clerk. Hayward, defeated for governor, was elected United States senator, but died on December 5, 1899, without qualifying. Charles E. Magoon, another republican faithful of Nebraska, was appointed in January, solicitor for customs and insular division of the war department at Washington. Governor Poynter vetoed a bill passed in this session providing for Supreme Court commission, and signed a bill locating the state fair at Lincoln. Col. John M. Stotsenburg of First Nebraska Volunteers was killed on April 23rd, in a charge upon the Filipinos at Quingua, and on May 28 his body lay in State in the State Senate chamber. In July, 1899, a jury in the case of the State v. the bondsmen of Ex-State Treasurer Bartley returned a verdict of \$646,382.43 against the bondsmen, releasing Mrs. Fitzgerald from her liability. The First Nebraska regiment returned to San Francisco on July 29th, with the record of having lost more men (sixty-two in all) in the Philippine campaign than any other regiment, except one, of regulars. In September, the \$600,000 Bartley bondsmen judgment was appealed. On November 1st, Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders died at his home in Omaha. Following the death of Senator Hayward, on December 5th, Governor Poynter appointed Ex-Senator W. V. Allen as United States Senator until the Legislature should elect a successor. In December, the State Supreme Court reversed and remanded for further trial the Bartley bondsmen case, and also the suit against the Omaha National Bank. Petitions for the release of Bartley were commencing to circulate, and early in January, 1900, the Supreme Court decided that the state could recover from insurance companies the fees paid Ex-Auditor Moore and retained by him, in amount of \$23,000.

1900. In March, the State Supreme Court granted a rehearing in the Bartley bondsmen case, and the state in that month, by decision of Judge Baker, lost its \$200,000 suit against the Omaha National Bank. Politics in this year did not reach the height of fervor they had in 1896, but Nebraska again had a presidential candidate. W. J. Bryan was for the second time nominated by the democratic party, but as he was running against President McKinley, the handicap was greater. The issue had changed from free silver, 16 to 1, to Imperialism. The electoral vote of Nebraska was switched to McKinley by a majority of approximately 8,000. Governor Poynter polled a vote of 113,018 but his opponent, Charles H. Dietrich, of Hastings bested him a few hundreds, with a vote of 113,879. The fusionists retained four districts on congressional elections, electing John S. Robinson, third, William L. Stark, fourth; Ashton C. Shallenberger, fifth and William Neville, sixth, but Elmer J. Burkett, first and David H. Mercer second, republicans, won. In October of this year, Edward Rosewater, of the Bee, and Gilbert M. Hitchcock, of the World-Herald had held a very interesting joint debate on the issues of the

day. On December 18th, the kidnaping of a son of Edward Cudahy, the millionaire Omaha packer, by Pat Crowe, with a payment of \$25,000 ransom money was an event that became noteworthy in the criminal annals of the state.

GOVERNORS DIETRICH-SAVAGE ADMINISTRATIONS. 1901. In January of this year, W. J. Bryan began the publication of a weekly paper, "The Commoner," and in February, Judge Samuel Maxwell died at his home in Fremont. He had been a member of the territorial Legislature, the first constitutional conventions, 1864-1871; first State Legislature, served the longest term of any Nebraska state jurist on her Supreme Court and served in Congress. The nineteenth Legislature, in twenty-seventh session met in January of this year. J. C. F. McKesson was secretary of senate and John Wall chief clerk of the house. Its main feature was one of the most picturesque senatorial contests ever staged in Nebraska. David E. Thompson, of Lincoln, afterwards Ambassador to Mexico, had for more than a year been leveling his enemies and corraling his friends and building fences for this contest and started out as the most formidable candidate. His strength at one point arose to 50 votes; six short of success in the republican caucus, and while he was forced to withdraw on March 28th, he still had strength enough to dictate the final course. The democrats or fusionists were backing Senator William V. Allen, incumbent of the term left vacant by Senator Hayward's death with fifty-seven votes, and William H. Thompson, for the full term, with fifty-eight votes. A switch gave Gilbert M. Hitchcock fifty-seven votes at one time. Edward Rosewater held a block of 14 to 16 votes most of the time, which grew to thirty-two on the fifty-third ballot. The final outcome was the withdrawal of D. E. Thompson, and the election of Governor Dietrich to the unexpired Hayward term. For the full term, Joseph H. Millard, a very prominent banker of Omaha, was chosen. So upon May 1st, Lieut.-Gov. Ezra P. Savage of Custer County became governor, when Governor Dietrich assumed the senatorship. In May, Ex-Secretary of State W. F. Porter was sued by the state for \$1,518.85 of fees under the "cattle brands law." In July of this year, came the event that stirred Nebraska to its depths and made Governor Savage so unpopular that upon his retirement from the executive chair, he removed from the state shortly afterwards—this was the parole of Ex-Treasurer Bartley for sixty days. This stir was deep enough that in 1911, ten years later, it sprang forth in a United States senatorial campaign. On August 27th, Governor Savage made a public statement of his reasons for this action, but on the next day revoked the parole at the request of the republican state convention passed by a vote of 998 to 165. In September of this year, Nebraska with the remainder of the Union suffered a shock from the assassination of President McKinley. In this same month, Judge Smith McPherson, of the Federal Court, declared unconstitutional three laws enacted by the 1897 Legislature, the anti-trust, stock yards rates and the insurance compact laws. In October, the State Supreme Court declared that the democrats and populists must each have a separate circle opposite their names on the ballot, and from the moment of this destruction of fusion, the days of electing populists waned, and the democrats stayed out of office to any great extent for about eight years longer.

1902. On January 1st, Governor Savage, insistent upon having his own way, granted a full pardon to Ex-State Treasurer Bartley. On this day occurred the death of W. H. B. Stout, a member of the 1868 Legislature, who had constructed the State Capitol and penitentiary. Acting Governor (Lieut.-Gov.) C. F. Steele

declared January 29th, McKinley Day, a holiday. Governor Savage did not stand for re-election, withdrawing from the race in April. John H. Mickey, of Polk County, won the republican nomination and was elected over William H. Thompson, of Grand Island, by a vote of 96,471 to 91,116. The republicans won all congressional seats except the second, in which Gilbert M. Hitchcock displaced David H. Mercer; the others were, Burkett, first; and other four districts, John J. McCarthy, Edmund H. Hinshaw, George W. Norris and Moses P. Kinkaid. Two of these six congressman, Norris and Hitchcock, have been Nebraska's two senators at Washington since 1915, and Kinkaid has served continuously since 1903 from the Sixth district. In June of this year, the State Supreme Court held the Bartley bondsmen were liable for any shortages. G. M. Lambertson died in June.

GOVERNOR MICKEY'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. 1903. In January, the State Supreme Court relieved the Omaha National Bank from liability in the Bartley case. The Legislature of this session met, with Lieut. Gov. C. F. Steele again presiding over the senate, and W. H. Harrison, of Grand Island, as president pro tem., and A. R. Keim as secretary and John H. Mockett, Jr., of Lincoln, was speaker of the house and John Wall was again chief clerk. During this session the house subpoenaed Ex-Governor Savage, Ex-Treasurer Bartley and R. J. Clancy to appear and answer questions in an investigation. Governor Mickey approved a resolution which petitioned Congress to pass an Act giving each homesteader 640 acres of land. Ex-Congressman Neville of the Big Sixth had been working on this during his term there, but after he went into office, Congressman Kinkaid took up the matter and stayed with it until its successful passage, in April, 1904, and it became known as the Kinkaid Law, and further than that, the homesteads became called "Kinkaid's" and the homesteaders themselves pretty generally known as "Kinkaiders." President Theodore Roosevelt visited the state in April and again in June. A teamsters' strike in Omaha in May brought forth a visit of the governor and injunctions issued against the strikers by Judge Munger of the Federal Court and against the employers by Judge Dickinson of the State District Court. A settlement of the Bartley case was attempted by the bondsmen in August and rejected by the state but in November, another decision came forth exonerating the bondsmen from liability.

1904. General Victor Vifquain died in January. In February, Senator Dietrich called for an investigation of a senate committee and received exoneration. Three months before then, Judges Munger and Vandeventer had acquitted him of a federal grand jury indictment charging he had received moneys for post office appointments, it developing the transactions took place before he became a senator. In May of this year, after a contest in which Victor Seymour and W. B. Rose had also sought the appointment, H. C. Lindsay of Pawnee County, who had served in the state senate and as chairman of republican state committee received the appointment of clerk of the Supreme Court and State Librarian, which posts he has retained continuously since then. In September, occurred the death of Charles H. Gere, editor and founder of the State Journal. This year turned out to be probably the high tide of republicanism. In national affairs, the republicans won the presidency, and all the congressmen electing E. M. Pollard, John L. Kennedy, and re-electing the other four members. Governor Mickey was re-elected, over George W. Berge, fusionist.

GOVERNOR MICKEY'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1905. This Legislature was the

heyday of republicanism. Every member of the senate and all but nine of the hundred representatives were of that faith. Lieut.-Gov. E. G. McGilton of Omaha presided over the senate, with W. H. Jennings, of Thayer County, as president pro tem., and Wm. M. Wheeler as secretary and George L. Rouse, of Hall County, as speaker, and John Wall as chief clerk. This Legislature set about to do some reform work, catching the growing spirit of progressivism sufficiently to lay the foundation for the wonderful record of the next succeeding Legislature. Senator George L. Sheldon, of Cass County, introduced a measure to provide two mills for the payment of the State's two million dollar debt, and his firm, aggressive stand against railroad passes to public officials, and primary elections for public offices, brought him the governorship at the next state election. Elmer J. Burkett won the United States senatorship on the first ballot. Ex-Governor Silas Garber died on January 12th, at his home in Red Cloud. Senator Geo. W. Shreck of York County introduced another bill in this session, destined to grow into a formidable issue, the county option question. Not ready to come to a full dose of progress medicine, the senate killed Senator Sheldon's anti-pass bill, in March. Ex-Governor Furnas died on June 1st, and on July 5th, Ex-Supreme Judge (General) Amasa Cobb died. On October 28th, Ex-President Grover Cleveland gave the principal address at the unveiling of a statue of J. Sterling Morton at Nebraska City. The sugar bounty Act of 1895 was held unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, in November. On December 6th, the State Supreme Court, released the bondsmen of Ex-Treasurer Bartley, and the state lost over half a million dollars by this decision.

1906. In February, a jury at Omaha acquitted Pat Crowe in the Cudahy kidnaping case, and Judge Sutton denounced the verdict as disgraceful. On March 19th, occurred the death of Ex-Governor and Ex-Senator (General) John M. Thayer. In April, Governor Mickey issued a proclamation asking the people of Nebraska to aid the sufferers from the San Francisco earthquake. The state Campaign of this year showed a decided turn about on the part of the republican party from its conservative stand of the preceding decade. It nominated George L. Sheldon for governor and chose Atty.-Gen. Norris Brown of Kearney for United States senator and promised a full list of progressive measures. Brown triumphed over Edward Rosewater and Joseph H. Millard in the senatorial contest. On September 5th, the citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska generally welcomed W. J. Bryan upon his return home from a trip abroad of over a year in which he had travelled in many countries.

GOVERNOR SHELDON'S ADMINISTRATION. 1907. As the last official act of his administration, Governor Mickey granted a full, unconditional pardon to Mrs. Lena Margaret Lillie, who had been convicted of the murder of her husband, Harvie Lillie, in Fillmore County. Governor Sheldon, who had defeated Ex-Congressman Ashton C. Shallenberger, took office with a thoroughly sympathetic legislature at his call. B. H. Gould was secretary of Senate, and in the House D. M. Nettleton of Clay County, speaker, and Clyde H. Barnard, chief clerk. This legislature broke all records, and has times without number been referred to as the most progressive legislature Nebraska ever enjoyed. It started in on the railroad question, and passed a two cent passenger law, a stringent anti-pass law; a railroad employer's liability law; a terminal railway taxation law; mileage book law; a minimum freight rate law, express regulation law, and then delved into general subjects, and passed the direct primary law,

under which the first primary election in Nebraska was held September 3, 1907. It passed a pure food law, and an anti-lobbying law, and fully met the wishes of the reform governor who posted a chart of the platform upon the wall of his office and checked off each pledge as it was redeemed. One law of this session, that prohibiting brewers from having a financial interest in saloons, furthered an alignment of the liquor interests with the democrats in the next election. Some of the other pieces of legislation named above also aroused the bitter antagonism of various political leaders and strong interests, and the combination of these factors served to reward Governor Sheldon with defeat at the next election. In February, 1907, Thomas C. Munger, a faithful republican wheelhorse, was appointed judge of the new second United States District Court, of Nebraska. In June, Attorney-General W. T. Thompson filed suits in the state supreme court to restrain the railroads from enjoining the two-cent fare, maximum freight rates, anti-free pass laws, and defying the order of the newly created railway commission, established by a constitutional amendment carried at the election of 1906. A similar injunction soon followed to interfere with the express companies charging higher rates than those prescribed by the new law, and they countered with an attempt at injunction, but Judge Munger denied them an injunction against the railway commission and the Sibley Act. A long litigation also ensued over the grain rate law. In November of this year, W. J. Bryan announced in his Commoner that if the rank and file of the party demanded it, he would make a third race for the presidency.

1908. The republicans of the state very early in the year began to express their preference for Secretary Taft for President. In February, Ross L. Hammond, a strong party worker, and editor at Fremont, was appointed collector of internal revenue. A national corn-show was projected and very successfully held at Omaha. On May 10th the first celebration of "Mothers Day" was held in Nebraska, an idea promoted and successfully projected by Senator Burkett of this state. During June tornadoes visited Kearney, Franklin, Geneva, Fairbury and Fairfield, and soon after that a series of troublesome floods ensued. W. J. Bryan was named on the first ballot for the democratic presidential nomination, at Denver, on July 9th. John W. Kern, of Indiana, his running-mate, called upon him three days later at Fairview. At the state conventions, the republicans turned down a plank providing for a guarantee of bank deposits, but the democrats on the same day, in their convention espoused this issue. On Sept. 30th, William Howard Taft, republican nominee for president, spoke in Lincoln. Bryan carried the state of Nebraska and received its electoral vote, but received a decisive defeat in the nation. Ashton C. Shallenberger turned the tables this time, and defeated Governor Sheldon. By virtue of a constitutional amendment enlarging the supreme court to seven members, Governor Sheldon appointed four new judges, Jacob Fawcett, J. L. Root and W. B. Rose, who took office and Ex-Chief Justice John J. Sullivan, who reconsidered and after one day's service, declined, and James R. Dean was appointed in his stead. On Dec. 30th occurred the death of Daniel Freeman at Beatrice, who had been the first homesteader in the nation, under the law of 1862.

GOVERNOR SHALLENBERGER'S ADMINISTRATION. 1909. Taking office as the second democratic governor of the state, Governor Shallenberger had a democratic Legislature to work with him. Lieut. Gov. M. R. Hopewell, again presided over the Senate with Wm. H. Smith as secretary of Senate and with George W. Tibbets, democrat, of Hastings, as president pro tem., and as speaker of the House

Charles W. Pool, democrat, of Tecumseh and Trenmor Cone as chief clerk. This legislature attempted to recanvass the vote on the amendment enlarging the membership of the supreme court, and under this action, Governor Shallenberger made another set of appointments to the supreme court, retaining Judges Fawcett and Root, but displacing Judges Rose and Dean with John J. Sullivan and Silas A. Holcomb, former members of that court, but the latter resigned, and W. D. Oldham of Kearney took his claim, but in the litigation that ensued, Judges Rose and Dean retained their seats on the high bench. In this session of the Legislature, a bitter discussion ensued over the acceptance of the "Carnegie Pension Fund" for university professors, which the Senate endorsed, but the House killed. A bank guaranty of deposits law was passed at this session. The "Oregon plan" of expressing a preference for United States Senators, in the direct primary, and taking this troublesome question out of the legislative hall, was adopted in Nebraska. The Senate killed the county option bill, and the House killed a daylight saloon proposal, but the real sensation of this session came in its closing hours, when Representative Victor E. Wilson of Polk County slipped into an innocent measure that had been passed to prevent saloons opening on primary day, a provision that no saloons in Nebraska could open before 7 A. M., and must close at 8 P. M. This provision slipped into enactment that night, and for the next three days, a bedlam ensued around the state capitol, besieging Governor Shallenberger to veto or sign the measure. On April 5th, immediately following his appeal to the governor to sign the same, Ex-Governor Poynter was stricken in the executive offices and died a few moments later. On April 6th, four days after its passage, the governor signed the "Daylight Saloon" measure, and thereby, like his predecessor, Governor Sheldon, incurred the displeasure of powerful liquor interests, that rewarded him with defeat for a re-nomination in 1910. In May, Ex-Governor and Ex-Supreme Justice Lorenzo Crounse died at his home in Omaha. In June of this year, sculptor Daniel C. French was chosen to design the statue of Abraham Lincoln which graces the capitol grounds. In June, Judge Cornish held the Donohoe non-partisan judiciary law invalid, and the affirmance of this by the supreme court held the election of its members into the partisan field for five years longer.

1910. On January 14th, occurred the death of Judge William Gaslin at his home in Alma. Judge Gaslin was a pioneer judge and a very original character. This year saw numerous conventions assembled and association formed fostering various movements, such as the formation of the Nebraska League of Municipalities; state baseball league; direct legislation league; brotherhood of threshermen; county option convention; laymen's missionary convention; Nebraska Conservation Convention, second in the union, following Minnesota. W. J. Bryan attempted to promote sentiment for calling a special session of the Legislature to formulate an initiative and referendum law, but Governor Shallenberger refused to call the same. On June 2d, Ex-Gov. John H. Mickey died at his home in Osceola. At the state conventions on July 26th, the republicans adopted county option, but the democrats not only refused to endorse county option, but the more conservative elements of the party undertook to give W. J. Bryan a first-class steam rolling. The Bryan faction favored county option, the Dahlman delegation favored local option. The result was a plank opposing making any plan a party creed. The republicans saw in this first defeat of Bryan in a democratic convention in seventeen years and in the growing prohibitory sentiment, an opportunity, so taking advantage of the

"open primary" law then in force, cast ballots on democratic race for governor, and assisted in nominating Mayor James C. Dahlman, of Omaha, over Governor Shallenberger, and themselves defeated Addison E. Cady of St. Paul, with State Sen. Chester H. Aldrich, of Polk County. The republican state ticket won, although the democratic candidate for secretary of state, Charles W. Pool, came within 100 votes of equalling Addison Wait. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, for United States Senator received 122,517 votes against 102,861 for Sen. E. J. Burkett. The democrats saved both houses of the legislature. W. J. Bryan had openly refused to support Dahlman for governor, and Aldrich won by 16,000 majority. The senatorial campaign had been enlivened by charges which Edgar Howard of Columbus had made that G. M. Hitchcock had been a beneficiary of the Bartley shortage of state funds. Atty.-Gen. W. T. Thompson resigned on October 28th to accept the appointment as solicitor-general of the U. S. Treasury Department, and Governor Shallenberger appointed Arthur F. Mullen, as attorney-general. W. H. Cowgill, democratic member of the state railway commission, died on October 16th, and the governor appointed his private secretary, W. J. Furse, to this vacancy.

GOVERNOR ALDRICH'S ADMINISTRATION. 1911. The twenty-fourth Legislature, in thirty-second session met on January 3, 1911. Lieut. Gov. John H. Morehead, the first of Nebraska's Senate presidents pro tem. governors to later become an acting lieutenant governor and then governor by election, held full presidency of the Senate, after the death of Lieutenant Governor Hopewell on May 5th. Wm. H. Smith was secretary of Senate, John Kuhl, democrat, Wayne, was speaker of the House, and Henry Richmond, chief clerk. Gilbert M. Hitchcock was Nebraska's first U. S. Senator to receive his election at the hands of the Legislature, as a formal ratification of the people's direct vote. The organization of this session was very difficult, as the county option question was a bitter bone of contention. A county option license bill was defeated in the House, by two votes, and in the Senate by a margin of one vote. The county option agitation, coupled with the fact that Lincoln had voted to abolish saloons, brought forth a formidable county removal agitation in this session, which resulted in Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, Broken Bow and other central towns inviting the capital to take Horace Greeley's advice and move westward, but this proved to be the last strong movement on this question. The Senate voted the Ollis bill to place the stock yards under the jurisdiction of the railroad commission; and also passed an initiative and referendum measure. A commission plan of government bill for towns over 5,000 was enacted at this session. In October, President Taft visited Nebraska. Albinus Nance, fourth governor of the state, died on December 6th at Chicago.

1912. On February 9, notice was received of the death of Prof. Samuel Aughey, at Spokane, Washington. He was a professor in Nebraska University, 1871-1884, and it is upon the authority of his research that much of the chapters on geology and early natural features of the state, in this work, are based. As the presidential primary was now set for April, so the delegates to national convention could be elected at that primary, national politics formulated very early. In February, a Harmon club was formed at Fremont to promote the candidacy of Judson Harmon of Ohio for the democratic nomination, and C. M. Gruenther, of Platte County, became chairman of a Harmon campaign movement in this state. Arthur F. Mullen successfully organized a Champ Clark campaign in Nebraska, and there was a formidable Woodrow Wilson organization. Governor Aldrich came

out in February for Theodore Roosevelt. On February 11th, Deputy Warden Edward D. Davis was murdered by Albert Prince, negro convict, at the close of chapel exercises at the state penitentiary. Prince was the last man in Nebraska to be legally executed, until the Cole-Grammer electrocution on Dec. 20, 1920. On March 14, occurred an incident that considerably marred the peaceful repose of the Aldrich administration. Warden James Delahunty, Deputy Warden Wagner, Usher E. G. Hellman were killed, and Guard Thomas J. Doody wounded by three escaping convicts at the state penitentiary, and in the chase that ensued, on March 18th, near Gretna, the three convicts were captured. Roy Blunt, a young farmer, hauling some of the officers, was killed, as was convict "Shorty" Gray. Convict John Dowd committed suicide, and convict Charles Morley surrendered and was later sentenced to life imprisonment. This uprising was made an issue in that year's gubernatorial campaign. In April, Senator Robert M. LaFollette came to Nebraska for five days' campaign tour in behalf of his candidacy for the republican presidential nomination. In July, W. J. Bryan made the fight of his life, up to that time, in the democratic national convention, and materially influenced the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. The Bryan forces controlled the democratic state convention, and the Taft forces bolted the regular republican state convention, and organized their own separate convention, adopted their own platform, and made their own separate campaign, electing Frank M. Currie, of Broken Bow, as their state chairman, while the Roosevelt, or progressive republicans, chose Frank P. Corrick, of Lincoln, as their state chairman. John H. Morehead, democratic candidate for governor extensively toured the state, but refused a challenge of a joint debate with Governor Aldrich, his opponent. Governor Hiram W. Johnson, of California, progressive candidate for vice president, on the ticket with Theodore Roosevelt, delivered an address on September 3d, at the state fair. A legal effort was made by the Taft state republicans to oust the Roosevelt electoral slate from the ballot, but that failed. Theodore Roosevelt came into the state to speak on September 20th, and Woodrow Wilson came on October 5th. The fall election resulted in the election of John H. Morehead, as governor, and in the national election, Woodrow Wilson won. At the fall election of 1911, five amendments to the constitution were adopted by the electorate, providing for the initiative and referendum, holding elections of state officers biennially rather than annually, home rule for cities of the state, a state board of control of public institutions and increasing salaries of legislators from \$300 to \$600 per term.

GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. 1913. When the task came of appointing the new board of control Governor Morehead offered one of these posts to ex-Governor Shallenberger who declined. The final appointments made were District Judge Howard Kennedy, of Omaha; ex-Governor Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow, and Henry Gerdes, of Falls City. The Legislature met at the regular time in January. Lieut.-Gov. Samuel R. McKelvie, Nebraska's first regularly elected lieutenant governor who later won election as governor, presided over the senate, with J. H. Kemp as president pro tem., and Clyde H. Barnard as secretary, and Dr. P. C. Kelley, of Grand Island, as speaker of the house, and Henry Richmond as chief clerk. Congressman George W. Norris was elected United States Senator, the second senator chosen in Nebraska under the Oregon plan. This legislature passed an anti-logrolling bill, turned down the university removal and the house passed a downtown campus bill, appropriated \$100,000 for relief

of tornado sufferers in the terrible disaster of March 23d, which tore up one edge of Omaha and cost over two hundred lives; passed a very comprehensive insurance code; a bill for county ownership of telephones; and finally decided to submit to the people the question of removal of the state university to the "farm campus." In May, Lincoln held its first election under its new commission form of government charter, for five city commissioners. Nebraska again received a cabinet portfolio when William Jennings Bryan was made secretary of state, and in June, Richard L. Metcalfe was appointed governor of Panama Canal Zone. Governor Morehead appointed that old veteran of republican circles, Thomas J. Majors, as a member of the state normal board. This board shortly thereafter became a storm center through its action in removing Dr. A. O. Thomas as principal of Kearney Normal School, but Doctor Thomas the next election won vindication by being elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1914. The campaign of 1914 was a much more quiet affair than its predecessor of two years before. The democrats renominated Governor Morehead over Richard L. Metcalfe, and the republicans chose R. Beecher Howell, of Omaha, as their standard bearer. This time Governor Morehead was elected, and carried in with him a democratic state ticket, so for the first time in many years the democrats took control of all branches of the state government, except the supreme court, but even in that branch succeeded in electing a chief justice, Judge Conrad Hollenbeck, for twenty-one years district judge in the fifth district. But he only lived two weeks after taking his oath of office. His successor was Andrew M. Morrissey, assistant attorney general, who had theretofore been private secretary to Governor Morehead. The people decisively rejected the university removal proposal.

GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1915. This session of the legislature was presided over in the senate by Lieut.-Gov. James Pearson, and Philip Kohl was president pro tem., and E. A. Walrath, secretary, and in the house, George Jackson was speaker and G. W. Potts, chief clerk. The important measures enacted by this session were jury commissioner law for Douglas County; some irrigation district measures; new charter provisions for Omaha, including the extension of the commission plan of government to that city; consolidated school district law; and laws for consolidation pertaining to Omaha and her various suburbs being taken into Greater Omaha; The Torrens Land Registration Law; State Budget Law. This remained a very quiet year politically as there was no off-year election even for the minor set of offices.

1916. This year was enlivened by the Mexican troubles reaching a climax that necessitated calling the Nebraska Militia regiments together. Nebraska's Fourth and Fifth Infantry regiments of National Guard troops were called into service on June 18, 1916, and taken to the Mexican border in July. They were kept there for many months patrolling the border and not mustered out until the next February, when it was pretty certain they would be called right back into service very soon. The national campaign lent spirit to the political situation this year. In September, President Woodrow Wilson was the guest of the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben and a great throng gave him a most wonderful ovation. The republican nominee, Charles E. Hughes spoke in the state. The state tickets were headed by Judge A. L. Sutton of Omaha, who won the republican nomination from a field of five candidates, and the democratic nominee was a man, absolutely new in state political circles, Keith Neville, of North Platte, who had been dragged from

political obscurity to defeat Charles W. Bryan at the polls. Neville succeeded in defeating Sutton, and carrying the democratic state ticket, as Wilson secured a majority of practically forty thousand in this state. Gilbert M. Hitchcock was re-elected United States Senator over John L. Kennedy. The predominating issue in the state campaign in 1916 was the prohibitory amendment. This was adopted by a majority of 29,442. It was generally represented throughout this campaign that the adoption of this amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in this state, would not result in such strict laws as to interfere with the keeping of liquors in the home for personal and family usage. But when the Legislature of 1917 came to pass enactments carrying this amendment into effect, the "wets" at first proposed to make the new laws bone dry, so everyone would sicken of prohibition. Then along came the national enactment of the Reed Act prohibiting the shipment of liquor into states that were "dry," so the Legislature took a sudden turnabout and passed a law, not only "bone dry" but with provisions regarding the possession of liquor any place except in one's home, making the Nebraska statute as far reaching as any in the nation. The vote on this amendment in 1916, was as follows:

County	For	Against	County	For	Against
Adams	2,555	2,033	Fillmore	1,780	1,456
Antelope	2,163	1,101	Franklin	1,282	918
Arthur	221	106	Frontier	1,160	573
Banner	193	79	Furnas	1,725	694
Blaine	224	120	Gage	3,549	2,576
Boone	2,022	1,119	Garden	523	253
Box Butte	856	503	Garfield	486	208
Boyd	1,041	559	Gosper	560	442
Brown	804	431	Grant	208	128
Buffalo	2,757	1,889	Greeley	1,090	713
Burt	1,808	858	Hall	2,364	2,483
Butler	1,378	1,909	Hamilton	1,906	1,155
Cass	2,591	1,865	Harlan	1,290	673
Cedar	1,712	1,531	Hayes	354	190
Chase	551	263	Hitchcock	721	321
Cherry	1,520	961	Holt	1,988	1,437
Cheyenne	683	606	Hooker	184	107
Clay	2,171	1,314	Howard	1,226	1,108
Colfax	922	1,526	Jefferson	2,172	1,513
Cuming	991	1,876	Johnson	1,218	1,075
Custer	3,586	1,672	Kearney	1,291	745
Dakota	708	796	Keith	536	344
Dawes	1,071	524	Keya Paha	481	198
Dawson	1,992	1,120	Kimball	378	144
Deuel	318	153	Knox	2,351	1,632
Dixon	1,507	861	Lancaster	10,720	5,518
Dodge	2,704	2,173	Lincoln	2,194	1,183
Douglas	14,888	25,389	Logan	306	114
Dundy	639	187	Loup	235	121

County	For	Against	County	For	Against
McPherson	215	70	Seward	1,748	1,633
Madison	2,491	1,991	Sheridan	1,000	494
Merrick	1,511	893	Sherman	1,107	791
Morrill	871	328	Sioux	615	257
Nance	1,231	739	Stanton	685	871
Nemaha	1,698	1,146	Thayer	1,593	1,577
Nuckolls	1,978	1,119	Thomas	273	94
Otoe	2,130	2,211	Thurston	1,135	632
Pawnee	1,368	921	Valley	1,330	817
Perkins	352	165	Washington	1,280	1,354
Phelps	1,755	529	Wayne	1,073	998
Pierce	902	1,227	Webster	1,562	911
Platte	1,661	2,467	Wheeler	289	156
Polk	1,667	859	York	2,614	1,417
Red Willow	1,492	688			
Richardson	2,675	1,881	Total	146,574	117,132
Rock	576	246			
Saline	1,670	2,273	Plurality	29,442	.....
Sarpy	975	1,119			
Saunders	2,388	2,115			
Scott's Bluff	1,810	577	Scattering—D., 1.		

GOVERNOR NEVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION. 1917. The Legislature met in January, thirty-seventh session. John Mattes was president pro tem. of senate, with Lieut.-Gov. Edgar Howard presiding and E. A. Walrath, secretary. In the house, Speaker George Jackson and Chief Clerk Geo. W. Potts again officiated. Aside from the strict prohibitory enactments, the other important measures formulated by this session were: very sweeping amendments to the Employers' Liability Act of the session of 1913, known commonly as Workmen's Compensation Law; State Hail Insurance Act; Regulation of Employment Agencies; City Manager Act.

Semi-Centennial Statehood Celebration. An interesting event in 1917 was the Semi-Centennial Celebration, when the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Nebraska to statehood, in 1867, was commemorated. President John L. Webster of the State Historical Society was the guiding spirit of this enterprise. Gurdon W. Wattles, of Omaha, was chairman of a committee of one hundred prominent and active citizens throughout the state who assisted in making this celebration a success. The first step in the celebration was the pageant at the Ak-Sar-Ben at Omaha, in the fall of 1916, when President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson reviewed the wonderful portrayal of all stages of Nebraska's life. The great celebration held at Lincoln in June, 1917, at which the State University gave a historical pageant, was visited by Theodore Roosevelt, as guest of honor. Local committees, consisting of the county superintendent, mayor, president of women's club and president of commercial clubs for each community worked arduously, and in many cities in the state local celebrations were held. Hon. John D. Haskell of Wakefield, Nebraska, offered in 1916 a prize of \$100 for the best poem suitable for a Nebraska state song. The prize for the words, or poem, went to Rev. W. H. Buss of Fremont, and for the best musical arrangement the \$100 prize was secured

by John Prindle Scott of New York City. The Hymn to Nebraska appears at the beginning of this state historical review. The program of the memorable occasion was as follows:

HALF-CENTURY A STATE

Detailed Program of the Semi-Centennial Celebration, Lincoln, June 12th, 13th
and 14th

Tuesday, June 12th

- 8:00 a. m. Opening of Historical Society Museum.
- 10:00 a. m. Daylight Fireworks.
- 10:30 a. m. Band Concerts.
- 2:00 p. m. Auto Races at State Fair Grounds and Band Concerts.
- 2:00 p. m. University Alumni Reunion.
General Business Meeting. Annual Report, Chancellor Avery,
Alumni Address by Prof. F. R. Philbrick.
- 2:30 p. m. Pioneers Reunions at Auditorium. Hon. S. C. Bassett, Gibbon,
presiding. Semi-Centennial Historical Address by Hon. John L.
Webster of Omaha. Historical Round Table by Pioneers.
- 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Coliseum.
- 10:00 p. m. Fireworks at State Fair Grounds.

Wednesday, June 13th

- 8:00 a. m. Opening Historical Museum.
- 10:00 a. m. Daylight Fireworks.
- 10:00 a. m. University Commencement Parade.
- 10:30 a. m. Commencement Address by Dean Roscoe Pound of Harvard.
- 2:30 p. m. Semi-Centennial Exercises, Capitol Grounds, Semi-Centennial Ad-
dress by Gov. Keith Neville, Response by Governors Capper of Kansas,
Harding of Iowa, Burnquist of Minnesota, Houx of Wyoming, Gunter
of Colorado and others. Open Air Reception to Governors.
- 6:30 p. m. Nebraska Editors' Semi-Centennial Banquet at Commercial Club.
- 8:00 p. m. Reunion of Legislature and State Officers, Capitol.
- 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Grounds, Coliseum.
- 10:00 p. m. Fireworks at State Fair Grounds.

Thursday, June 14th

- 8:00 a. m. Opening Historical Museum.
- 8:40 a. m. Arrival Colonel Roosevelt, Burlington Station.
- 10:00 a. m. Band Concerts.
- 10:00 a. m. Elks Flag Ceremony.

- 10:30 a. m. Unveiling portraits of J. Sterling Morton, Charles Bessey, Robert W. Furnas, Isaac Pollard, and R. W. Daniels in Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Fame.
- 2:00 p. m. Great Patriotic Parade Reviewed by Colonel Roosevelt.
- 3:30 p. m. Address by Theodore Roosevelt on "Americanism" followed by informal reception.
- 5:30 p. m. Band concerts and daylight fireworks.
- 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Grounds Coliseum, Colonel Roosevelt the guest of the evening.

Nebraska in the World War. A greater part of Governor Neville's administration was devoted to tasks that arose from the part Nebraska was called upon to play in the Great World War. This terrible conflict had been raging since 1914, when on August 1st, the world embroiled itself into a conflict that eventually swallowed almost the entire roster of nations, directly or indirectly, and more than two dozen were in actual fighting at a time. But upon April 2, 1917, when the President's message to congress called for a declaration of war, which was forthcoming on April 6th, Nebraska got immediately into the task. Her National Guard regiments were called back into federal service in July, 1917. The governor of the state fostered the enlistment and organization of a third regiment, the Seventh Nebraska, and tendered his resignation, to take effect upon his being mustered in as colonel of the new regiment. The Fourth Nebraska went forth under command of Col. W. E. Baehr, the Fifth under the command of Col. H. J. Paul, and the Sixth with Phillip L. Hall, formerly adjutant general of the state, as colonel. These regiments went to the training camps; were put into the mill with other national guard regiments; and through the policy pursued by the War Department toward the National Guard, torn apart, their identity largely destroyed, their officers scattered, and some of them left at Camp Deming, New Mexico, practically the entire time. The Seventh never got mustered in, and Governor Neville remained at his executive post.

Nebraska is credited with having had more soldiers and sailors in the service of the country, in proportion to her population, than any other state. Of a total increment of armed forces of 4,034,743 for the entire nation, Nebraska furnished 49,614. Of these 29,807, or 60.08 per cent represented inductions under the registrations into the national army; 14,416, or 29.06 per cent, were enlistments in the army; 4,944, or 9.96 per cent, in the navy, and 447, or .90 per cent in the marine corps. Nebraska's per cent of national army, or "drafted" increment was 60.08 per cent against an average for all states, of 66.10 per cent, and the percentage of enlistments in other branches, for the entire nation, of 33.90 was eclipsed by Nebraska with a percentage of 39.92. Not only in numbers is Nebraska credited with an unusual record, but the report of the provost-marshal general shows that Nebraska accomplished the work of securing the men for military service at a cost of \$4.90 per man, against the national average of \$7.90 per man. In physical rejections, this state stayed below the national average of 8.1 per cent with a showing of 6 per cent.

Nebraska can further show a record of more money subscribed per capita for Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps, and other quotas than any other state. The following table shows the results of Nebraska's war drives:

	Quota	Subscribed	Over Sub- scribed
First Liberty Loan.....	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 18,206,750	1%
Second Liberty Loan.....	29,640,000	33,317,200	8%
Third Liberty Loan.....	31,942,800	50,684,850	58%
Fourth Liberty Loan....	68,350,000	71,000,000	4%
War Savings Stamps....	25,940,120	32,000,000	23%
United War Work.....	2,000,000	2,600,000	30%
Y. M. C. A.....	250,000	560,302	124%
First Red Cross Fund...	700,000	1,020,812	45%
Second Red Cross Fund..	800,000	2,300,000	188%
Knights of Columbus....	40,000	225,000	462%
Armenian Relief	250,000	265,000	6%
Smileage Book Campaign.	10,000	16,470	65%
Y. W. C. A.....	no quota	58,505	
Miscellaneous	165,000	240,000	45%
Total	\$178,087,920	\$212,494,000	19%

Nebraska was the first state in the Union to go over the top on the war savings campaign, and the only state to accomplish this task on the first date set, March 22d. This scheme had been figured out by a group of eastern financiers, and Frank A. Vanderlip of the National City Bank of New York City placed at the head of this campaign. But a little group of men in Seward County, headed by W. H. Brokaw, later director of farm bureaus in Nebraska, in devising a way to meet the quota of their county took Mr. Brokaw's suggestion that a meeting be held simultaneously in every school district in the county on one appointed day. In this way Seward County so promptly raised its quota, that State Director Ward M. Burgess of Omaha, investigated, applied that plan to the state and raised Nebraska's quota on March 22d; and this action resulted in another date being set for every other state in the Union, and Mr. Burgess being called to direct the national campaign.

A state council of defense was appointed by Governor Neville and this body of men worked incessantly for many months. Robert M. Joyce of Lincoln was chairman. Hon. George A. Coupland worked on the problem of increasing the production on farms; Hon. Richard L. Metcalfe, H. E. Gooch, Miss Sarka B. Hrbkeva worked faithfully on Americanization problems. Gen. George H. Harries of Omaha, George O. Brophy, Dr. E. O. Weber of Wahoo, Chas. A. McCloud, York, representing financial interests; T. P. Reynolds of Omaha, representing labor interests; State Engineer George E. Johnson and Adj.-Gen. P. L. Hall, Jr.

1918. The continuance of the war work was the main task of the second year of the Neville administration. A special session of the Legislature was called to pass laws forbidding the teaching of German and European languages in the public schools below the high school; to pass espionage and sabotage laws; and other war measures. The Council of Defense inaugurated a vigorous campaign against certain elements of people in the state, and prosecutions of the Nonpartisan League were carried on with great vigor. The anger of these aroused elements throughout

the state, the antagonism of certain elements against the party in power, and a sudden turn just before election caused by an appeal by President Wilson to elect a democratic congress and intimating that to vote for a republican candidate was an act of disloyalty, swept the state into the republican column at the fall election. Ex-Governor John H. Morehead, who had won the democratic senatorial nomination against a field of aspirants was defeated by Senator George W. Norris, and Governor Neville was likewise defeated by Samuel R. McKelvie, of Lincoln, who had defeated a field of republican gubernatorial aspirants in the primary.

GOVERNOR MCKELVIE'S ADMINISTRATION. 1919. Governor McKelvie came into office, accompanied by a quota of republican state officers and a republican legislature. It opened up with expectations of being the greatest session since 1907. One of the domestic issues urged by Governor McKelvie in his campaign for election was that he would advocate the passage of a civil administrative code, providing for the centralization or crystallization of some twenty state departments, bureaus and commissions, into a gubernatorial cabinet of six secretaries, of finance, trade and commerce, agriculture, labor, public works and public welfare. This measure was contested fiercely, but with the governor's insistence and organization, was enacted into law. It was hauled into the courts, and during the interim between a favorable decision and an appeal, put into force by the governor, who appointed his cabinet, consisting of Philip F. Bross, secretary of finance; J. E. Hart, secretary of trade and commerce, which took over the old banking, insurance and blue sky boards or bureaus, and the fire commission; Leo B. Stuhr, secretary of agriculture, which department took over the old pure food, dairy, oil, hotel bureaus and some of the activities of the old state agricultural department. Geo. E. Johnson, state engineer, who took over that work and the new, increased highways department, and H. H. Antles, secretary of public welfare, which department embraced the old health department and pardon and parole board. This session was presided over in the senate by Lieut.-Gov. P. A. Barrows, and B. K. Bushee, as president pro tem. In the house, Dwight S. Dalbey was speaker and W. F. Hitchcock was chief clerk. This session accomplished some other noteworthy tasks, the most important of which was the projection of a state highway system, with some three millions of dollars per year appropriated to match a federal aid; and in 1919 and 1920, some ten millions of dollars have been spent on building up splendid, permanent highways in Nebraska. This session provided for ways and means of holding a constitutional convention, and the delegates for this convention were elected at a special election in September, 1919.

1920. The Constitutional Convention met in January, 1920, and after considering 366 proposals, submitted to the people forty-one proposals to be voted upon at an election held September 21, 1920, when every one of these forty-one proposals was adopted, a record which has perhaps never been equalled in the nation. The old constitution of 1875 was allowed to remain intact, and only those portions amended or superseded by these new proposals will be made non-effective. The personnel of this convention and the proposals submitted by it, are as follows:

John Wiltse	Falls City	L. A. Varner	Sterling
Edgar Ferneau	Auburn	Henry R. Cleve	Nebraska City
A. J. Weaver.....	Falls City	Ernest M. Pollard.....	Nehawka
Jacob F. Halderman.....	Pawnee City	Wm. H. Pitzer.....	Nebraska City

William KieckSpringfield
 Jerry HowardOmaha
 Geo. A. Magney.....Omaha
 Lysle I. Abbott.....Omaha
 Chas. F. McLaughlin.....Omaha
 Chas. W. Sears.....Omaha
 R. A. Wilson.....Omaha
 Geo. E. Norman.....Omaha
 Anson H. Bigelow.....Omaha
 A. J. Donahoe.....Omaha
 Jos. T. Votava.....Omaha
 L. J. TePoel.....Omaha
 Chas. L. Saunders.....Omaha
 A. W. SprickFontenelle
 Herbert RhoadesTekamah
 Harry L. Keefe.....Walthill
 John D. HaskellWakefield
 F. C. Radke.....Hartington
 W. A. Meserve.....Creighton
 Wilbur F. Bryant.....Hartington
 H. C. Elwood.....Creighton
 O. S. Spillman.....Pierce
 J. G. W. Lewis.....Wayne
 A. R. Oleson.....Wisner
 Charles McLeodStanton
 E. S. Cowan.....Albion
 M. D. Tyler.....Norfolk
 Charles J. Thielen.....Humphrey
 I. L. Albert.....Columbus
 M. J. Higgins.....Schuyler
 S. S. Sidner.....Fremont
 W. D. Holbrook.....Ames
 A. L. UllstromMemphis
 Emil FauquetWahoo
 C. Petrus Peterson.....Lincoln
 C. C. Flansburg.....Lincoln
 John M. Stewart.....Lincoln
 Walter L. Anderson.....Lincoln
 W. A. Selleck.....Lincoln
 C. W. Pugsley.....Lincoln
 Frank MalickyBarneston
 Earl M. Marvin.....Beatrice
 John HeastyFairbury
 Thos. LahnersBelvidere
 Wm. GreuberByron
 Geo. H. Hastings.....Crete

R. S. Norval.....Seward
 E. A. Coufal.....David City
 E. J. Spirk.....Wilber
 J. N. NortonPolk
 H. V. Price.....York
 R. A. Matteson.....Geneva
 Chas. H. Epperson.....Fairfield
 George LandgrenShickley
 Arthur M. Hare.....Aurora
 George JacksonNelson
 H. G. KeeneyCowles
 A. T. BrattonHastings
 J. D. EvansKenesaw
 Emil G. StolleyGrand Island
 James G. KunzWood River
 Elmer E. Ross.....Central City
 R. WildeGenoa
 C. V. SvobodaSt. Paul
 Murt M. SullivanSpalding
 James A. Donohoe.....O'Neil
 John A. Davies.....Butte
 Lewis K. Alder.....Ainsworth
 D. E. Strong.....Ord
 Aaron WallLoup City
 W. J. Taylor.....Merna
 J. D. Ream.....Broken Bow
 Nathan P. McDonald.....Kearney
 Fred A. NyeKearney
 I. C. Rankin.....Minden
 Albert H. Byrum.....Bloomington
 George S. Austin.....Orleans
 Harry JohnsonHoldrege
 B. F. Butler.....Cambridge
 Edward SughroueIndianola
 George C. Junkin.....Smithfield
 W. M. Stebbins.....Gothenburg
 Joseph G. Beeler.....North Platte
 Harry LehmanCulbertson
 P. W. ScottImperial
 Festus CorothersWhitman
 Chas. H. Cornell.....Valentine
 James H. H. Hewett.....Alliance
 Everett P. Wilson.....Chadron
 Thomas C. Osborne.....Bayard
 J. A. Rodman.....Kimball
 H. D. Lute.....Paxton

- No. 1. Authorizes jury, by a five-sixth vote, to give a verdict in civil cases.
- No. 2. Permits legislature to regulate property rights of aliens.
- No. 3. Declares English to be official language and requires common school branches in all schools to be taught therein.
- No. 4. Reduces percentage of signatures to initiative and referendum petitions to conform to increased number of voters since women secured ballot.
- No. 5. Permits large counties to be divided into state senate and house districts.
- No. 6. Permits state senate to be increased from thirty-three to fifty members.
- No. 7. Increases salaries of legislators from \$600 to \$800 for two-year term.
- No. 8. Relates to legislative procedure and intended to save time of sessions and to prevent passage of important bills in closing hours by viva voice vote on conference committee reports.
- No. 9. Prohibits appointment of members of legislature to state offices.
- No. 10. Prohibits raising of salaries of state and county officers during term of office.
- No. 11. Reserves all rights to oil, gas and other minerals in state land sold.
- No. 12. Eliminates obsolete section of no consequence.
- No. 13. Provides for executive budget and takes from governor sole control of pardons, placing it in hands of board.
- No. 14. Creates office of state tax commissioner to have charge of assessment work.
- No. 15. Provides for reorganization of courts of state with object of speeding up work and relieving supreme court of congestion.
- No. 16. Requires vote of five supreme judges to declare law unconstitutional.
- No. 17. Provides for election of supreme court judges by districts.
- No. 18. Gives ballot to women.
- No. 19. Provides soldiers may vote when absent from state on duty.
- No. 20. Authorizes legislature to distribute temporary school fund on any basis of length of school term it may decide.
- No. 21. Prohibits sale of school lands except at public auction.
- No. 22. Provides for election of university regents by districts.
- No. 23. Prohibits state aid to sectarian institutions.
- No. 24. Raises age for reform school inmates from 16 to 18, in order to keep boys under 18 from being sent to penitentiary, as now.
- No. 25. Makes constitutional board of present normal school board.
- No. 26. Rewriting of tax schedules with intent to provide for gathering property that now escapes taxation.
- No. 27. Tax exemption of \$200 worth of household goods to a family.
- No. 28. Clears up ambiguity in existing constitution as to limit of indebtedness for counties.
- No. 29. County boundaries cannot be changed save by vote of all affected.
- No. 30. Requires public utility corporations to report to state railway commission.
- No. 31. Prohibits consolidation of competing utilities without permission of railway commission.
- No. 32. Prohibits payment of dividends by utilities out of any fund save net earnings.

No. 33. Allows Omaha to adopt present charter as home rule charter and relieves legislature of need of legislating for that city alone.

No. 34. Grants greater powers and more flexible control to co-operative companies.

No. 35. Gives users of water for domestic and agricultural purposes priority in streams of state.

No. 36. Retains in public all beneficial rights to water powers of state.

No. 37. Permits regulation as to minimum wages and conditions of employment of women and children in industry.

No. 38. Permits creation of industrial commission to prevent strikes and lockouts and to control profiteering.

No. 39. Provides that amendments to constitution submitted by legislature shall be adopted by a majority voting on the question if the affirmative vote is 35 per cent of total vote cast at election.

No. 40. Raises salaries of state officers, including supreme court judges, until such time as legislature may fix them.

No. 41. Eliminates obsolete sections and provides when amendments go into effect.

The serenity of the McKelvie administration was disturbed somewhat by the practice followed in recent years of "furloughing" prisoners in the state penitentiary: a process neither a pardon nor a parole, but just granting them a vacation, which came to a head and brought down public indignation when one Beryl Kirk, of Omaha, serving the second year of a twenty year sentence for complicity in the killing of Officer Frank Rooney, was "furloughed" during the absence of the governor and lieutenant governor from the state by president pro tem. of senate and acting governor B. K. Bushee. This furlough was secured and then held some fourteen weeks, before presented to the warden, and resulted in an investigation by the Bar Commission at the direction of the State Supreme Court of the actions of State Senator C. Petrus Peterson and republican state chairman Robert W. Devoe, who were members of the law firm that secured this action. Coupled with the pardon of Frank Dinsmore of Buffalo County, serving a life sentence for wife murder, the parole of St. Clair, a bank robber convict; of another prisoner who was released the day he was brought to the penitentiary and the growing number of paroles resulting from the indeterminate sentence law, and the necessity of some sixteen to twenty reprieves for Cole and Grammer, two Howard County murderers under sentence of death for the murder of Mrs. Lulu Vogt at Elba, Nebraska, on July 4, 1917, while those cases were switched back and forth and in and out of innumerable courts, this whole question aroused the state. But despite this situation, with five opponents for the nomination, Governor McKelvie won a renomination from his party in the spring primaries of 1920, and ex-Governor Morehead was selected to oppose him. A convention of farmers' unions, labor unions and non-partisan leaguers met at Grand Island, in May, and nominated Mayor Arthur G. Wray of York for governor; Robert D. Mousel of Cambridge for lieutenant governor and F. L. Bollen of Crofton for attorney general. In the spring primaries the people of Nebraska expressed a vigorous preference for Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California, for the republican nomination for president, which was won at Chicago, by Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio, and in the

democratic circles, ten Bryan delegates, headed by W. J. Bryan, and six Hitchcock delegates went to San Francisco, giving Senator Hitchcock only six from his own state in his quest for the democratic nomination, which on the forty-fourth ballot was won by Gov. James M. Cox of Ohio.

The fall election of 1920 was the first occasion upon which the women of the state exercised the full right of franchise, and the vote of the state was almost doubled, with this added vote and the natural increase. Senator Harding, the republican candidate for president, carried the state by the unprecedented majority of 127,000, and secured a majority in every one of the ninety-three counties of the state, and numerous state officers on the republican ticket had majorities hovering around one hundred thousand. Governor McKelvie was re-elected by a majority of approximately twenty-two thousand over Governor Morehead, who polled about forty thousand more votes than Arthur G. Wray, the independent petition candidate. All six of the republican congressmen were re-elected. The 1921 Legislature had only four democrats among the 100 members of the house and the thirty-three senators were all republicans. The Legislature of 1921, met, confronted by many problems, in the passage of legislative acts to carry out numerous provisions of the new constitution; the first state "budget" submitted to it, a new code of laws on pardons, parole and commutations, a new code of laws upon the blue sky question and other difficult, but pressing legislative questions. Lieut.-Gov. Pelham A. Barrows presided over the Senate with R. S. Norval as President pro tem. and Clyde H. Barnard as Secretary. Walter L. Anderson of Lincoln was speaker and Frank P. Corrick of Lincoln, Chief Clerk of the House. The passage of a new pardon and paroles code, strengthened blue sky code, reapportionment for legislative districts, revenue measure, reassessment of real estate biennially instead of quadrennially, five-sixths jury act, strengthening Simon act requiring teaching of English rather than foreign languages in schools, refusal to authorize sale of school lands, and passage of several bills included in the child welfare commission program were the chief achievements of this session.

STATE INSTITUTIONS

Nebraska has well provided for her wards and unfortunates in numerous state institutions. A brief review of these will be given.

Hospitals for the Insane. Up until 1870 Nebraska arranged to send her insane patients to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. From July to December of that year, the Pawnee County jail was used, and then the institution at Lincoln was finished. The hospital at Norfolk was established by act approved March 4, 1885. The state hospital at Hastings was established by act approved March 30, 1887, and now Nebraska has these three well built, splendidly equipped institutions.

The School for the Deaf is located at Omaha, and was established by an act approved February 7, 1867, and a building built in 1871. In 1909, the legislature changed the name of this institution from "Institute for the Deaf and Dumb" to the "Nebraska School for the Deaf." The Institute for the Blind, established in 1875, is located at Nebraska City. The Institute for Feeble Minded Youth was established at Beatrice by an act in 1885. The Industrial School for Boys is located at Kearney, and since this institution was taken charge of some years ago by Hon. R. V. Clark, has been raised to a standard high among institutions of its class.

The Industrial School for Girls is located at Geneva. The citizens of Kearney donated 320 acres of land to secure the former institution, provided for in 1879. The latter school at Geneva was built in 1892. It seems to be a very difficult institution to handle and has had numerous changes in management. There are two soldiers' and sailors' homes. The older and larger was established at Grand Island, by act of 1887 and opened on July 1, 1888. The citizens of Grand Island donated 640 acres of land for this institution, and it receives some federal aid. A branch home was located at Milford, in 1895, upon a site of thirty-five acres leased on annual rental, and the site purchased in 1899. As the number of veterans of Civil war decreases, it is expected to develop these institutions for the use of veterans of the Spanish-American and World wars, and other military services. A Nebraska Industrial Home was established by act of 1887 at Milford for the shelter and protection of penitent women and girls. In 1918, an institution in the nature of a "Remedial Farm" for unfortunate women and girls was established, and located near York. The Legislature of 1906 provided for a "hospital for crippled ruptured and deformed children" to be located at Lincoln on the grounds of the home for the friendless. This institution developed into the Orthopedic Hospital. The Home for Dependent Children is another institution located on the outskirts of Lincoln and was created in 1909, an outgrowth of the work of a private association since 1876. Its function is to receive those children under sixteen, and under the new constitutional amendment of 1920 this will be changed to eighteen, who are neglected, ill-treated or left destitute by parents, and do not come within the orphan class. The Legislature of 1911 established a hospital for tubercular patients, and this was located at Kearney. The State Penitentiary is located at Lincoln.

STATE OFFICERS

Governors

David Butler, 1867, until impeachment in 1871, succeeded by W. H. James, secretary of state.
 Robert W. Furnas, 1873-1875.
 Silas Garber, 1875-1879.
 Albinus Nance, 1879-1883.
 James W. Dawes, 1883-1887.
 John M. Thayer, 1887, to January 15, 1891. May 5, 1891, to February 8, 1892.
 James E. Boyd, January 15, 1891, to May 5, 1891, February 8, 1892-1893.
 Lorenzo Crounse, 1893-1895.
 Silas A. Holcomb, 1895-1899.
 William A. Poynter, 1899-1901.
 Charles H. Dietrich, January 3, 1901, to May 1, 1901.
 Ezra P. Savage, May 1, 1901-1903.
 John H. Mickey, 1903-1907.

George L. Sheldon, 1907-1909.
 Ashton C. Shallenberger, 1909-1911.
 Chester H. Aldrich, 1911-1913.
 John H. Morehead, 1913-1917.
 Keith Neville, 1917-1919.
 Samuel R. McKelvie, 1919-1923.

Lieutenant Governors

Othman A. Abbott, 1877-1879.
 Edmund C. Carns, 1879-1883.
 A. W. Agee, 1883-1885.
 H. H. Shedd, 1885-1889.
 Geo. D. Micklejohn, 1889-1891.
 Thomas J. Majors, 1891-1895.
 Robert E. Moore, 1895-1897.
 James E. Harris, 1897-1899.
 E. A. Gilbert, 1899-1901.
 C. F. Steele, 1901-1905.
 Edmund G. McGilton, 1905-1907.
 M. R. Hopewell, 1907 to May 2, 1911; died May 2, 1911.

John H. Morehead (president pro tem. senate), May 2, 1911-1913.
 S. R. McKelvie, 1913-1915.
 James Pearson, 1915-1917.
 Edgar Howard, 1917-1919.
 P. A. Barrows, 1919-1923.

Secretaries of State

Thomas P. Kennard, February 21, 1867, to January 10, 1871.
 William H. James, 1871-1873.
 Acting Governor, June 2, 1871, to January 13, 1873.
 John J. Gosper, 1873-1875.
 Bruno Tzschuck, 1875-1879.
 S. J. Alexander, 1879-1883.
 Edward P. Roggen, 1883-1887.
 Gilbert L. Laws, January 6, 1887, to November 20, 1889, when he resigned to fill unexpired term in congress caused by death of James Laird.
 Benjamin A. Cowdery, November 20, 1889, to January, 1891, vice Laws.
 John C. Allen, 1891-1895.
 Joel A. Piper, 1891-1897.
 William F. Porter, 1897-1901.
 George W. Marsh, 1901-1905.
 A. Galusha, 1905-1907.
 George C. Junkin, 1907-1911.
 Addison Wait, 1911-1915.
 Charles W. Pool, 1915-1919.
 Darius M. Amsberry, 1919-1923.

State Auditors

John Gillespie, 1867-1873.
 Jefferson B. Weston, 1873-1879.
 F. W. Liedtke, 1879-
 John Wallichs, November 12, 1880-1885.
 H. A. Babcock, 1885-1889.
 Thomas H. Benton, 1889-1893.
 Eugene Moore, 1893-1897.
 John F. Cornell, 1897-1901.
 Charles Weston, 1901-1905.
 Edward M. Searle, 1905-1909.
 Silas R. Barton, 1909-1913.

W. B. Howard, 1913-1915.
 William H. Smith, 1915-1919.
 George W. Marsh, 1919-1923.

State Treasurers

Augustus Kountze, February, 1867-1869.
 James Sweet, 1869-1871.
 Henry A. Koenig, 1871-1875.
 J. C. McBride, 1875-1879.
 George M. Bartlett, 1879-1883.
 Philip D. Sturdevant, 1883-1885.
 Charles H. Willard, 1885-1889.
 John E. Hill, 1889-1893.
 Joseph S. Bartley, 1893-1897.
 John B. Merserve, 1897-1901.
 William Stuefer, 1901-1903.
 Peter Mortensen, 1903-1907.
 L. G. Brian, 1907-1911.
 Walter A. George, 1911-1915.
 George E. Hall, 1915-1919.
 D. B. Cropsey, 1919-1923.

Commissioners of Public Lands and Buildings

F. M. Davis, 1877-1881.
 A. G. Kendall, 1881-1885.
 Joseph Scott, 1885-1889.
 John Steen, 1889-1891.
 A. R. Humphrey, 1891-1895.
 Henry C. Russell, 1895-1897.
 Jacob V. Wolfe, 1897-1901.
 George D. Follmer, 1901-1905.
 Henry M. Eaton, 1905-1909.
 E. B. Cowles, 1909-1913.
 Fred Beckman, 1913-1917.
 Grant L. Shumway, 1917-1919.
 Dan Swanson, 1919-1923.

Attorneys General

Champion S. Chase, 1867-1869.
 Seth Robinson, 1869-1871.
 George H. Roberts, 1871-1873.
 J. R. Webster, 1873-1875.
 George H. Roberts, 1875-1879.

C. J. Dilworth, 1879-1883.
 Isaac Powers, Jr., 1883-1885.
 William Leese, 1885-1891.
 George H. Hastings, 1891-1895.
 Arthur S. Churchill, 1895-1897.
 Constantine J. Smyth, 1897-1901.
 Frank N. Prout, 1901-1905.
 Norris Brown, 1905-1907.
 William T. Thompson, 1907-1910.
 Arthur F. Mullen, October 31, 1910, to
 January 5, 1911, vice Thompson, re-
 signed.
 Grant G. Martin, 1911-1915.
 Willis E. Reed, 1915-1919.
 Clarence A. Davis, 1919-1923.

Superintendents of Public Instruction

S. Dewitt Beals, appointed February 16,
 1869, to 1871.
 J. H. McKenzie, 1871-1877.
 S. R. Thompson, 1877-1881.
 W. W. W. Jones, 1881-1887.
 George B. Lane, 1887-1891.
 A. K. Goudy, 1891-1895.
 Henry R. Corbett, 1895-1897.
 William R. Jackson, 1897-1901.
 William K. Fowler, 1901-1905.
 Jasper L. McBrien, 1905-1909.
 E. C. Bishop, 1909-1911.
 James W. Crabtree, January to October,
 1911.
 James E. Delzell, October, 1911-1915.
 A. O. Thomas, 1915-1917.
 W. H. Clemmons, 1917.
 J. M. Matzen, vice Clemmons, deceased,
 1920; reelected 1920.

United States Senators

John M. Thayer, 1868-1871.
 Thomas W. Tipton, 1867-1875.
 Phineas W. Hitchcock, 1871-1877.
 Algernon S. Paddock, 1875-1881, and
 1887-1893.
 Alvin Saunders, 1877-1883.
 C. H. Van Wyck, 1881-1887.
 Charles F. Manderson, 1883-1895.

John M. Thurston, 1895-1901.
 William V. Allen, 1893-1899; Decem-
 ber 13, 1899, to March 28, 1901.
 Monroe L. Hayward, elected March 8,
 1899, died December 5, 1899, never
 qualified.
 Joseph H. Millard, 1901-1907.
 Charles H. Dietrich, 1901-1905.
 Elmer J. Burkett, 1905-1911.
 Norris Brown, 1907-1913.
 Gilbert M. Hitchcock, 1911 to date.
 George W. Norris, 1913 to date.

Representatives in Congress
 Entire state in one district

Turner M. Marquette, March 1-4, 1867.
 John Taffe, 1867-1873.
 Lorenzo Crounse, 1873-1877.
 Frank Welch, 1877; died 1877.
 Thomas J. Majors, elected 1878 to fill
 vacancy.
 E. K. Valentine, 1879-1883.

First District

A. J. Weaver, 1883-1887.
 John A. McShane, 1887-1889.
 W. J. Connell, 1889-1891.
 W. J. Bryan, 1891-1895.
 J. B. Strode, 1895-1899.
 E. J. Burkett, 1899-1905.
 E. M. Pollard, 1905-1907.
 John A. Maguire, 1909-1915.
 C. F. Reavis, 1915-1923.

Second District

James Laird, 1883 to August, 1889.
 Gilbert L. Laws, vice Laird, 1889 to
 1891.
 W. A. McKeighan, 1891-1893.
 David H. Mercer, 1893-1903.
 Gilbert M. Hitchcock, 1903-1905; 1907-
 1911.
 John L. Kennedy, 1905-1907.
 C. O. Lobeck, 1911-1919.
 Albert W. Jefferis, 1919-1923.

Third District

E. K. Valentine, 1883-1885.
G. W. E. Dorsey, 1885-1891.
O. M. Kem, 1891-1893.
Geo. D. Meiklejohn, 1893-1897.
Samuel Maxwell, 1897-1899.
John S. Robinson, 1899-1903.
J. J. McCarthy, 1903-1907.
J. F. Boyd, 1907-1909.
James P. Latta, 1909-1913.
Dan V. Stephens, 1913-1919.
Robert E. Evans, 1919-1923.

Fourth District

E. J. Hainer, 1893-1897.
William L. Stark, 1897-1903.
Edmund H. Hinshaw, 1903-1909.

Charles H. Sloan, 1911-1919.
M. O. McLaughlin, 1919-1923.

Fifth District

W. A. McKeighan, 1893-1895.
W. E. Andrews, 1895-1897.
R. D. Sutherland, 1897-1901.
A. C. Shallenberger, 1901-1903.
G. W. Norris, 1903-1913.
Silas R. Barton, 1913-1917.
A. C. Shallenberger, 1917-1919.
W. E. Andress, 1919-1923.

Sixth District

O. M. Kem, 1893-1897.
William L. Greene, 1899-1901.
William Neville, 1901-1903.
Moses P. Kinkaid, 1903-1923.

CHAPTER VIII

THE RAILROADS OF NEBRASKA

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD—WHAT THE ENGINES SAID—THE BURLINGTON SYSTEM
—RAILROAD BUILDING AND EXTENSION (BY YEARS)—THE STATE RAILWAY COM-
MISSION—RAILROADS' PALMY POLITICAL DAYS.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The father of railroads in this state was the Pacific Railroad project. Whether it is correct as intimated in past records that Jonathan Carver foreshadowed its construction in 1778, or whether in the years that the first railroads in the eastern part of the country were being built, the idea of a railroad to the western coast was being scouted as impracticable, it is reliably credited that Senator Thomas H. Benton, as early as 1825, urged upon Congress the "occupation of Columbia" with a view of forming a "communication for commercial purposes between the Pacific and the Mississippi, and to send lights of science and religion into Eastern Asia." The development of this idea will be carried chronologically as the briefest way to fully cover its evolution into the finest system traversing the western plains.

1835. Rev. Samuel Parker, in his journal of a trip across the continent, recorded an opinion that the mountains presented no insuperable obstacle to a railroad.

1836. The first public meeting to consider the project of a Pacific railway was called by John Plumbe, a civil engineer of Dubuque, Iowa. Editorial mention of such a project appeared in the columns of the *Emigrant*, Ann Arbor (Michigan Territory), February 6, 1832, presumably acereditable to Judge S. W. Dexter. Lewis Gaylord Clarke, in the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, in 1836, urged such an idea. Jonathan Carver's grandson, Heartwell Carver, was urging it in 1832.

Maj.-Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railway from 1866 to 1870, the period of its most active construction, has narrated the story of "How We Built the Union Pacific Railway" (published in Senate Document No. 447; 61st Congress, Second Session). Stating that interest in the project of a Pacific railway increased from 1836, he continues:

"The explorations of Fremont in 1842 and 1846 brought the attention of Congress, and A. C. Whitney was zealous and efficient in the cause from 1840 to 1850. The first practical measure was Senator Salmon P. Chase's bill, making an appropriation for the exploration of different routes for a Pacific railway in 1853. Numerous bills were introduced in Congress between 1852 and 1860, granting subsidies and lands, and some of them appropriating as large a sum as \$96,000,000 for the construction of the road. One of these bills passed one of the houses of Congress. The results of the explorations ordered by Congress were

printed in eleven large volumes, covering the country between the parallels of latitude thirty-second on the south and forty-ninth on the north, and demonstrating the feasibility of building a Pacific railway, but at a cost on any one of the lines much larger than the Union Pacific and Central Pacific were built for. It is a singular fact that in all of these explorations the most feasible line, in an engineering and commercial point of view, the line with the least obstacles to overcome, of lowest grades and least curvature, was never explored and reported on. Private enterprises explored and developed that line along the forty-second parallel of latitude.

The route was made by the buffalo, next used by the Indians, then by the fur traders, next by the Mormons, and then by the overland immigration to California and Oregon. It was known as the Great Platte Valley Route. On this trail, or close to it, was built the Union and Central Pacific railroads to California, and the Oregon Short Line branch of the Union Pacific to Oregon.

In 1852 Henry Farnum and Thomas C. Durant were building the Mississippi Railroad, a line westward across the state of Iowa as an extension of the Chicago and Rock Island, then terminating at Rock Island, Ill. They desired to end that line at the Missouri River, where the Pacific Railroad following the continent where the forty-second parallel of latitude would commence. Under the direction of Peter A. Dey, who had been a division engineer of the M. & M., in Iowa, I made the first survey across the state of Iowa, and the first reconnoissances and surveys on the Union Pacific for the purpose of determining where the one would end and the other commence, on the Missouri River. I crossed the Missouri River in the fall of 1853 and made our explorations west of the Platte Valley and up it far enough to determine that it would be the route of the Pacific road."

General Dodge goes on in an article on "How We Built the Union Pacific" some forty pages long and from which the compiler of this brief review can take only enough to give the reader an idea of the magnitude of the task, and the difficulties surmounted in securing the selection of the eventual route:

"The times were such that the work on the M. & M. Railway was suspended for some years. Meanwhile I located at Council Bluffs, continuing the explorations under the directions of Messrs. Farnum and Durant and obtaining from voyagers, immigrants, and others all the information I could in regard to the country farther west. There was keen competition at that time for the control of the vast immigration crossing the plains, and Kansas City, Fort Leavenworth (then the government post), St. Joseph and Council Bluffs were points of concentration on the Missouri. The trails from all points converged in the Platte Valley at or near old Fort Kearney, following its waters to the South Pass. A portion of the Kansas City immigration followed the valley of the Arkansas west, and thence through New Mexico. The great bulk of the immigration was finally concentrated at Council Bluffs as the best crossing of the Missouri River. From my explorations and the information I had obtained with the aid of the Mormons and others, I mapped out and made an itinerary of a line from Council Bluffs through to Utah, California and Oregon, giving the camping places for each night, and showing where wood, water and fords of the streams could be found. Distributed broadcast by the local interests of this route the map and itinerary had no small influence in turning the mass of overland immigration to Council Bluffs, where it crossed the Missouri and took the great Platte Valley route. This route

was up that valley to its forks, and then up either the north or south fork to Salt Lake and California by way of the Humboldt, and to Oregon by the way of the Snake and Columbia rivers. This is today the route of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific to California and the Union Pacific to Oregon.

"After collecting all the information we could as to the best route for a railroad to the Pacific, I reported to Messrs. Farnum and Durant, who paid out of their private funds for all of my work.

"In 1854, when Nebraska was organized, we moved to its frontier, continuing the explorations under the patronage of Messrs. Farnum and Durant, and obtaining all valuable information, which was used to concentrate the influence of the different railways east and west of Chicago to the support of the forty-second parallel line."

General Dodge continues:

"In 1861 we discontinued the railroad work because of the Civil war. The passage of the bill of 1862, which made the building of a transcontinental railroad possible, was due primarily to the persistent efforts of Hon. Samuel R. Curtis, a representative in Congress from Iowa, who reported the bill before entering the Union service in 1861. It was then taken up by Hon. James Harlan, of Iowa, who succeeded in obtaining its passage in March, 1862."

In commenting upon how this road obtained its name, General Dodge narrates that various lines proposed had received the names of the "North Route," "Buffalo Trail," "South Route," but that in 1858 a bill was fostered that gave out the name "Union Pacific." One of the arguments advanced for the bill that eventually passed was that the route proposed would tend to hold the people of the Pacific Coast in the Union. He adds:

"Lincoln advocated its passage and building, not only as a military necessity, but as a means of holding the Pacific Coast to the Union. This bill became a law in 1862, and there is no doubt but what the sentiment that the building of the railroad would hold the Union together gave it the name of the Union Pacific."

General Dodge described the initiation of this work as follows:

"In 1862 the Union Pacific Railway was organized at Chicago, and soon after Mr. Peter A. Dey continued the explorations, and in 1863 he placed parties over the Black Hills and in Salt Lake and over the Wasatch in Utah. In 1863 I was on duty at Corinth when I was called to Washington by Mr. Lincoln, who had met me in 1859 at Council Bluffs and had questioned me very systematically as to the knowledge I had of the western country and the explorations I had made there. Remembering this he called me to Washington to consult with me as to where the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railway should be. I explained to him what my surveys had determined, and he fixed the initial point of the Union Pacific (at Council Bluffs). At this interview with Mr. Lincoln he was very anxious to have the road constructed. It was my opinion then that it could not be constructed unless it was built by the Government, and so I informed Mr. Lincoln. He said that the United States had at that time all it could handle, but it was ready to make any concession and obtain any legislation that private parties who would undertake the work would require.

"I then went to New York City and met Mr. Durant and others connected with the Union Pacific and informed them of what Mr. Lincoln had said. It gave

them new hope and they immediately formulated the amendments to the law of 1862, which was passed in 1864 and enabled them to push the work.

"The ground was broken in Omaha in December of 1863, and in 1864 about \$500,000 was spent in surveying and construction, and in 1865 forty miles was completed to Fremont. Mr. Dey, who had charge of the work as chief engineer, resigned, and stated in his letter that he was giving up the best position in his profession this country had ever offered to any man.

"In May, 1866, I resigned from the army, came to Omaha and took charge of the work as chief enigneer, and covered the line with engineering parties from Omaha to California, and pushed our location up the Platte Valley.

"In 1866 we built 260 miles.

"In the winter of 1866 we planned to build the next year 288 miles to Fort Sanders. During 1867 we reached the summit of the Black Hills and wintered at Cheyenne, where the population of nearly 10,000 gathered around us."

John P. Davis, in his history of the Union Pacific Railway, describes the great moment in American railroad history entitled "Done," when, on the morning of May 10, 1869, the Union and Central Pacifics were ready to meet, except about a hundred feet left open between the "ends of the track."

"Early in the day, Leland Stanford, governor of California and president of the Central Pacific arrived with his party from the west; during the forenoon, Vice President Durant and Directors Duff and Dillon of the Union Pacific, with other prominent men, arrived."

Davis describes the final culminating scene:

"The ties were laid, about one hundred feet space left open for rails, and while the coolies from the west laid the rails from one end, the paddies from the east laid them at the other, until they met and joined. The 'last spike' remained to be driven. Telegraphic wires were so connected that each blow of the descending sledge would flash the report to cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Spikes of gold, silver and iron were presented by the officials of Arizona, Nevada, and California, and when the last spike of gold was driven with the sledges of silver by President Stanford and Vice President Durant the word *Done* flashed over the wires. The Central Pacific train back up, and the Union Pacific locomotive, with its train, passed slowly over the point of junction and back again." The story has poetically been told in the lines of Bret Harte, which Mr. Davis quoted in his work:

WHAT THE ENGINES SAID

What was it the Engines said,
Pilots touching—head to head,
Facing on the single track,
Half the world behind each back?
This is what the Engines said,
Unreported and unread.

With a prefatory screech,
In a florid western speech,
Said the Engine from the West,

"I am from Sierra's crest,
And, if altitude's a test,
Why, I reckon, it's confessed,
That I've done my level best."

Said the Engine from the East,
"They that work most talk the least,
S'pose you whistle down your brakes;
What you've done is no great shakes,
Pretty fair—but let our meeting
Be a different kind of greeting,
Let these folks with champagne stuffing,
Not their Engines, do the puffing.

"Listen! Where Atlantic beats
Shores of snow and summer heats,
Where the Indian autumn skies
Paint the woods with wampum dyes,
I have chased the flying sun,
Seeing all he looked upon,
Blessing all that he had blest,
Nursing in my iron breast
All his vivifying heat,
All his clouds above my crest;
And before my flying feet
Every shadow must retreat."

Said the Western Engine "Phew!"
And a long, low whistle blew,
"Come now, really that's the oddest
Talk for one so very modest.
You talk of your East! You do?
Why, I bring the East to you!
All the Orient, all Cathay,
Find through me the shortest way;
And the sun you follow here
Rises in my hemisphere.
Really—if one must be rude—
Length, my friend, ain't longitude."

Said the Union, "Don't reflect, or
I'll run over some director."
Said the Central, "I'm Pacific,
But, when riled, I'm quite terrific.
Yet today we shall not quarrel.
Just to show these folks their moral,
How two Engines—in their vision—
Once have met without collision,"

That is what the Engines said,
Unreported and unread;
Spoken slightly through the nose,
With a whistle at the close.

THE BURLINGTON SYSTEM

The Burlington & Missouri River, the second great railroad system of Nebraska in mileage and importance in the early days, has in more recent years, with many of its early subsidiaries, been merged into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company's system.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company was chartered by a special act of the Illinois Legislature, dated February 12, 1849, as the Aurora Branch Railroad Company. It built from Aurora to a connection with the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad (now Chicago & Northwestern) at Turner Junction about twelve miles. It had a track laid with wooden rails faced with strap iron when it opened for business on September 2, 1850. In 1852, it changed its name to Chicago & Aurora Railroad Company. On February 14, 1855, the name was changed to the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and the road was extended through Illinois in the next few years. The bridge over the Mississippi at Burlington, Iowa, was opened for traffic on August 13, 1869.

The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company was organized in 1869, with a capital stock of \$7,500,000, and in May, 1871, its capital stock was increased to \$12,000,000. In January, 1873, it was taken over by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, which absorbed its lines east of the Missouri River. It then had a main line from Burlington, Iowa, to a point on the east bank of the Missouri River practically opposite Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and numerous branches. The Burlington & Missouri River Company in Nebraska, which was the name of the company which built the first Nebraska lines of this system, was incorporated May 12, 1869, and the construction of its line from Plattsmouth to Kearney, Nebraska, some one hundred and ninety miles, making connection with the Union Pacific main line, was started in 1870. Lines were then built from Omaha to Plattsmouth, twenty-one miles, where various connections were made. This company was consolidated with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company on July 28, 1880, with 836 miles of railroad in operation then. The extension of this system will appear in the chronological chart of Nebraska's railroad building which follows.

RAILROAD BUILDING AND EXTENSION IN NEBRASKA

1862. Nebraska's direct railroad history begins with the passage of the bill by Congress authorizing the building of the Union Pacific Railroad.

1863. December. Ground broken at the initial point fixed by the Government, "on the western boundary of the State of Iowa," opposite Omaha. Ground broken at Omaha on that day at the northern end of the levee, donated by the city to the railway company.

1864. Road placed under contract for a hundred miles out of Omaha and sur-

veys ran to 100th Meridian (in Dawson County). A change in route was applied for at this time.

1865. On July 10th, first rail laid at Omaha, on Union Pacific, and during the winter of 1865-66, eighty miles of track was laid, reaching to Columbus.

1866. By March 15, sixty miles of track was ready for use, and by July, 1866, 135 miles was ready.

1867. The Union Pacific pushed its line on through the State of Nebraska:

1868. Passenger fare on the Union Pacific was reduced from ten to seven and a half cents per mile; In this year, stock was subscribed for the Omaha & Southwestern Railway, the second railway project in the state, and which built a line sixty-eight miles long from Omaha to Lincoln. This later became a part of the Burlington system. Its first officers were men prominent in Nebraska financial circles: S. S. Caldwell, president; Henry T. Clarke, vice president; Enos Lowe, treasurer, and A. S. Paddock, secretary, and the directors were George W. Frost, Clinton Briggs, John Y. Clopper, Ezra Millard, Jonas Gise, and Alvin Saunders. Ground was broken at Nebraska City for a proposed enterprise that later developed into the Midland Pacific.

1869. This year saw the completion of the Union Pacific, at Promontory, Utah, far beyond the Nebraska border, but of far-reaching effect for Nebraska, as it gave a Pacific outlet to rail transportation that passed through this state. On February 15th the legislature of Nebraska appropriated 2,000 acres per mile to any railroad which would complete ten miles of its route within one year, the grant in no case to exceed 100,000 acres. This brought about a group of railroad movements in this and the few succeeding years. In October James E. Boyd and a group of financial assistants around Omaha proposed to secure twenty men who would each subscribe \$10,000 to an Omaha and Northwestern Railroad project to build some two hundred and fifty miles into the Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys. This resulted in the incorporation in November of the "Northwestern," with J. E. Boyd, Ezra and J. H. Millard, J. A. Horbach, J. S. McCormick, H. Kountze, C. H. Downs, J. A. Morrow, Q. A. Paxton and A. Kountze, as incorporators.

In June of this year ground was broken at Lincoln for the Burlington. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (later a part of the Northwestern system) built its first ten miles from near Blair.

1870. This year saw the completion of the Omaha & Southwestern to Lincoln; the extension of the Burlington on to Kearney was started, and twenty-six and one-half miles of the Northwestern was built to Desoto. The Burlington ran its first train into Lincoln in July, and also completed its line to Nebraska City. In October Lancaster County voted bonds to aid the Omaha & Southwestern and the proposed Midland Pacific. Atchison & Nebraska Railroad Company was organized in this year.

1871. This year saw the organization of the Midland Pacific Railroad. It built in this year fifty-eight miles, from Nebraska City to Lincoln. This line a few years later was sold under foreclosure, and its operation carried along until in 1876 it became part of the Burlington system. Indicative of the swift sales of railroad land, it might be noted that in April of this year the Union Pacific sold over sixteen thousand acres at an average of \$4.13 per acre, and the Burlington sold some eight thousand five hundred acres at an average of \$8.36 per acre. The Northwestern built from Fremont to Wisner, fifty-one miles. The B. & M.

had its trains running by July as far west as Crete, Saline County. St. Joseph & Denver Railroad, now St. Joseph & Grand Island, built into the state as far as Hastings in this year.

1872. The Atchison & Nebraska Company completed its line from Atchison, Kan., to Lincoln, Neb., 148 miles in this year. This line later became a part of the Burlington system, coming up through Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage and Lancaster counties. In September of this year the B. & M. brought in on one train 720 passengers, 600 being from Iowa. This is indicative of the flow of immigration from other states that Nebraska was then receiving. On March 13th a test of the capacity of the new bridge at Omaha over the Missouri River was made. It had taken three years from the time the contract was entered into until this bridge was finished. The Burlington line to Kearney Junction, to make junction with the Union Pacific, was completed on September 18th. The roadbed of the Northwestern was graded from Herman, where it had reached completion in October, 1871, to Tekamah, though completion of this block of road was delayed until 1876.

1873. The great Easter storm of this year put all Nebraska railroads to the "acid test" of their capacity to restore operations when a practically complete annihilation of facilities had taken place. Proposal was made in this year to project a line from Lincoln to St. Paul, Minn., extending the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad in Nebraska on to Lincoln. This latter named road was built down the east side of the Missouri River from Sioux City to a point about two miles west of Missouri Valley Junction, Iowa, where it connected with the Chicago & Northwestern main line from Chicago to Council Bluffs, Iowa, bending westward, crossing the Missouri River by ferry, about three miles east of the City of Blair, and thence westward to Fremont. There it connected with the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley, projected in 1869.

1874. The St. Joseph & Denver Railroad passed into hands of a receiver, who operated it until March, 1877, when it was reorganized as the St. Joseph & Denver City, with the Kansas part as the St. Joseph & Pacific, and later the Nebraska part as the Kansas & Nebraska Railroad and later yet the whole line as St. Joseph & Grand Island.

The Midland Pacific extended its line from Lincoln to Seward, completing this task in 1874. It went into foreclosure, was reorganized as the Nebraska Railway, and so operated until 1876, when it went into the hands of the B. & M. Company.

1875. The consolidation of the Midland Pacific and Brownville & Fort Kearney took place in this year, as above mentioned.

1876. The B. & M. extended the old Midland Pacific line, which it had just taken over, from Seward on toward York, arriving at that place in 1877. The Omaha & Republican Valley, a branch of the Union Pacific extending from Valley station, in western Douglas County, toward Osceola, was started. Wahoo, Valparaiso, David City and Osceola are on this line. The old Omaha & Northwestern, now known as the Omaha & Northern Nebraska Railway, built into Tekamah from Herman this year. The Covington, Columbus & Black Hills Railroad was built in 1876-7, and is twenty-six miles in length, from Sioux City to Ponca.

1877. The B. & M. moved the shops of the transferred Midland & Pacific to their own yards in Lincoln. The Union Pacific, because Douglas County instituted proceedings to repudiate a bond issue of \$250,000 theretofore voted, threatened the removal of its machine shops west, but this never materialized. The Union Pacific built from Valparaiso to David City, Summit to Lane, and Valley to Lincoln.

1878. Foreclosure of the Omaha & Northwestern brought about the organization of the Omaha & Northern Nebraska Railroad, to buy the former in and reorganize it.

1879. The Omaha & Republican Valley completed its branch to Osceola. The St. Joseph & Denver City built into Grand Island from Hastings; the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley reached Stanton, which remained the terminus for some time. The Atchison & Nebraska was extended from Lincoln to Columbus. The Union Pacific built from David City to the west Butler line. The Pacific Express Company was organized out of the express department of the Union Pacific Company. The Union Pacific and Burlington started a freight rate war. The F. E. & M. V. built from Wisner to Oakdale.

1880. The B. & M. extended its line to Central City and became the first company to cross the tracks of the Union Pacific, reaching that town about March; in May it reached Columbus with a line. The leasing of the Atchison & Nebraska and the Lincoln and Northwestern railroads was ratified at Plattsmouth in March. The B. & M.'s northwest line now extended from York to Aurora, and turned northward to Central City. The Union Pacific built from Oconee to Albion. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley pushed on from Oakdale to Neligh, and a branch diverged to Plainview.

1881. In July the B. & M. reached Culbertson, which carried its southern line almost through the Republican Valley to nearly the western edge of the state. The St. Joseph & Denver City extended from Grand Island to St. Paul, the county seat of Howard County, a branch that later became part of the Union Pacific system. The B. & M. depot was completed at Lincoln at a cost of \$125,000. The Union Pacific built from Beatrice to Kansas State Line and the Blue Springs spur. The F. E. & M. V. pushed on from O'Neill to Long Pine, and the "branch" from Plainview to Creighton.

1882. The Norfolk branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha was built. The Union Pacific branch was extended from St. Paul to North Loup, 26.63 miles, and the Scotia to Scotia Junction, a spur of 1.37 miles, was also built. The Missouri Pacific Railroad built into Cass County this year. The B. & M. extended from Culbertson to Benkleman, in the very southwest corner of the state.

1883. Salina, Lincoln and Decatur railroad organized. At this time the western terminus of the Sioux City & Pacific (now Chicago & Northwestern) was Fort Niobrara, this line having been extended on from Stanton, through O'Neill, Neligh and Long Pine.

1884. The Chicago & Northwestern secured ownership of C. R. & Mo. River and C. I. & N. Company, and by this time owned the old Sioux City & Pacific, with which the Northern Nebraska Air Line had been consolidated and the various early attempts in Northern Nebraska made by the Omaha & Northwestern, Omaha & Northern Nebraska, Covington, Columbus &

Black Hills, organized together under the name of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, owned by the Northwestern, but operated even now in 1920 under its own name, as a separate corporation. The Blair bridge had been completed in 1883 and the transfer of trains by steam ferry done away with. It had been built by a separate company known as the Missouri Valley & Blair Bridge Company. The Northwestern at this time also purchased the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley, and prepared to extend it on to the Black Hills and Wyoming. Sheridan and Dawes counties came into being, as the main line was extended through this territory in 1885. In 1884 the Union Pacific built from Lincoln to Beatrice, 58.10 miles; from Fullerton to Cedar Rapids 1.595 miles; and the Burlington extended its Grand Island & Wyoming Central line from Aurora to Grand Island. The Burlington had opened branches from Tecumseh to Beatrice in 1883, from Nemaha to Salem, and from Kenesaw to Holdrege. In 1884 it now extended its lines from Chester to Hebron, 12 miles; Dewitt to Tobias, 24 miles; its main line on from Holdrege to Oxford, 20 miles, and another branch from Odell to Concordia, Kan., 74 miles.

1885. In this year the Burlington extended a branch from Holdrege northwest to Elwood, 28 miles; and from Republican City, Neb., to Oberlin, Kan., 78 miles. The Union Pacific started a branch out of St. Paul toward Loup City that reached the Sherman County line in this year. The Northwestern's activity as mentioned above was in building its Black Hills lines west from Fort Niobrara toward Chadron. In this year a State Railroad Commission was established by the Legislature consisting of the secretary of state, the auditor and the attorney general, with the actual work done by three secretaries. This device was resorted to as the constitution said no new executive officers could be created, and it proved to be rather ineffectual and mainly advisory.

1886. The Burlington this year opened its line from Tobias to Holdrege, 113 miles; extended its Holdrege branch from Elwood to Curtis, 44 miles; and built branches from Fairmont to Hebron, 33 miles, and from Edgar to Superior, 26 miles. On its Grand Island & Wyoming Central district, it extended from Grand Island to Anselmo, Neb., 101 miles, and a branch was opened in September from Aurora to Hastings, 28 miles. The Union Pacific extended its Loup City branch the remaining 20 miles to termination. It extended its other northern Loup Valley branch from North Loup to Ord, which has remained the terminus to this time, 1920. In August, 1886, the Missouri Pacific completed its line to Lincoln. The Northwestern pushed ahead with its Black Hills lines, through Chadron, and opened direct communication from Lincoln, through the F. E. & M. V., with the Elkhorn Valley and Northwest Nebraska. This was accomplished by completion of the branch out of Fremont to the south, being completed from the Platte River bridge into Lincoln, and the Arlington to Omaha line being also completed. The Northwestern went on to Rapid City, S. D., this year. The F. E. & M. V. (Northwestern) was also projected in this year and started a branch through Butler, Seward, York, Hamilton, Clay and Adams counties, giving this road a line from David City through York to Harvard and Hastings. The Missouri Pacific built from Sarpy County to Omaha and started the Nebraska City branch to Weeping Water, which was finished in 1887.

1887. Incorporation of the Lincoln & Black Hills Railroad and the Republican Valley & Wyoming branch of the Burlington were filed. The Lincoln Belt

Line Railway was organized, and the Omaha, Lincoln, Hartland & Southwestern authorized surveys.

In this year a Board of Transportation was formed by state authority. This comprised the three officers named in the act of 1885 with the state treasurer added. This board was declared void in a supreme court opinion of 1900, because of defects in the passage of the act of 1885. The Burlington in 1887 extended its northwest Nebraska line from Anselmo to Whitman, 99 miles; pushed its Curtis branch on from Curtis to Cheyenne, Wyo., 263 miles; opened a line from Omaha to Ashland, destined to be a part of its main line, 25 miles; extended from Central City to Greeley, 44 miles, and opened in December from Greeley to Burwell, 41 miles; and diverging from the Greeley branch at Palmer, pushed to Arcadia (Valley County), 54 miles. It also opened a branch from Ashland to Schuyler, 51 miles; Orleans to Blakeman, Kan., 95 miles. The Union Pacific extended about ten miles of line from Boelus, on its Loup City branch, to Nantasket, in northern Buffalo County. The Kansas City & Omaha Railroad built into Sutton, Clay County, and came on through York County in this year. The Nebraska Southern Railway built from Auburn to Nebraska City, and the Northwestern built on to Whitewood, S. D.

1888. The Burlington extended its Wyoming line from Whitman to Alliance, Neb., 69 miles; built a branch from Greeley, Neb., to Ericson, 19 miles; and from Blakeman, Kan., to St. Francis, Kan., 39 miles. The F. E. & M. V. extended its Sutton branch. The Northwestern built from Geneva to Superior and from Lindsay to Oakdale, and extended its Niobrara line from Creighton to Verdigris; and the Missouri Pacific built from Talmage to Crete.

1889. The Burlington built from Alliance, Neb., to Cambria, Wyo., 162 miles, carrying this line beyond the Nebraska borders. They opened a line from Culbertson to Beverly, Neb., 10 miles, and changed the Denver to Lyons, Colo., line to standard gauge and leased it to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. The Northwestern extended lines from Linwood to Geneva and from Lindsay to Scribner.

1890. The Burlington activities had gone beyond Nebraska and were used on a branch from Newcastle to Merino, Wyo., and Edgemont to Hill City, S. D. The Northwestern was also working in South Dakota, extending this year lines to Belle Fourche and to Deadwood. The Union Pacific extended its Boelus branch from Nantasket to Pleasanton, its terminus, and started its branch from Kearney to Callaway, in southern Custer County. The Lincoln, Sioux City & Yankton, and the Lincoln & Western Railroad filed articles of incorporation.

1891. The Burlington opened branches from Beverly to Palisade, Neb., 8 miles; from Merino to Gillette, Wyo., 48 miles and extended from Hill City to Deadwood, S. D., and Minnekata to Hot Springs, S. D. The Northwestern was building lines around Deadwood and to Lead City. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific system was seeking to enter Lincoln, having in the year preceding been enjoined from crossing the tracks of the B. & M., and Omaha & Republican Valley lines, and it enjoined the Lincoln electric lines from crossing its tracks; but these injunctions were shortly thereafter vacated. The Rock Island was building from Omaha to Lincoln, extending its main line on the way toward Denver.

1892. The Rock Island built on into Lincoln, and extended its line on toward the Nebraska state border, toward Belleville, Kan. It has 127 miles of this line

in Nebraska and a branch from Fairbury to Nelson, of 51 miles, or a total of 178 miles in Nebraska. The Burlington built from Palisade to Imperial, Neb., 31 miles; and opened 101 miles from Gillette to Sheridan, Wyo.

1893. The Burlington construction was in Wyoming, and the Northwestern in South Dakota.

1894. The Burlington reached Billings, Mont., far beyond Nebraska's confines, but of vast importance to this state, as it gave another transportation outlet to the Northwest, and eventually to the Pacific Coast. This brings us to the years of the droughts, and in railroad activities as in every other line of human endeavor the next five year trying period is reflected. Nothing of importance comes in railroad extension until 1899.

1899. The Burlington opened a 19 mile extension of that branch from Arcadia, to Sargent, Neb., the present terminus in 1921.

1900. The Burlington made an important move to Western Nebraska and opened up the great North Platte Valley by building the branches from Alliance to Northport and Bridgeport, Neb., and on west to Guernsey, Wyo., 131 miles, and from Northport, Neb., south to Brush, Colo., 113 miles. The Union Pacific extended its Callaway yards.

1902. The Union Pacific extended its branch from Cedar Rapids (Boone County) to Spalding (Greeley County).

1904. The Northwestern extended its Northeastern Nebraska line to Bone-steel, S. D.

1906. The Union Pacific built the branch from Stromsburg (Polk County) to Central City (Merrick County), joining the main line there, and trains are run to Grand Island over this combined line. The Burlington extended a line from Ashland to South Sioux City (Laketon), 107 miles. In 1906 the Union Pacific started the construction of the second, or double track on its main line, and continued this work through 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1910 on its Nebraska line.

1907. The Burlington purchased the line from South Sioux City to O'Neill, Neb. The Union Pacific started its line up into the North Platte Valley, building in 1907 from O'Fallons, near North Platte, to Lutherville, 62 miles. In this year, the permanent Railway Commission was started, having been established by a constitutional amendment. Hudson J. Winnett, of Lincoln, Robert Cowell, of Omaha, and Joseph A. Williams, of Pierce County, were named. Mr. Cowell resigned from the commission in April, 1907, and Henry T. Clarke took his place. Mr. Clarke served until 1917.

1908. The Union Pacific built from Lutherville to Oshkosh, about 9 miles, and a line from Summit to Lane, the "Lane Cutoff," in Douglas County, thereby shortening its main line.

1909. The Burlington built 7 miles of line from Lincoln to Cobb Junction, and the Union Pacific extended from Oshkosh to Northport, practically 45 miles.

1911. The Union Pacific extended its branch from Northport to Gering, and then to Haig, a few miles beyond Gering.

1912-1913. The Union Pacific extended its Callaway branch on to Stapleton, in Logan County.

1920. The Union Pacific is extending its North Platte Valley branch from Haig, Neb. (Scotts Bluff County), on to Goshen Hole, Wyo., with the ultimate aim of joining its main line at Medicine Bow, Wyo. Extensions of the Burlington

branch terminating at Erierson on to Chambers and into Holt County, and either the Union Pacific branch at Spalding or Albion into Wheeler County and on toward Holt County and the Northwestern line are being agitated and projection attempted in 1920.

THE STATE RAILWAY COMMISSION

As shown heretofore, this body started out with Hudson J. Winnett, Joseph A. Williams and Henry T. Clarke as members, and Mr. Clarke served until 1917, when he was succeeded by Victor E. Wilson, who had won in the election of 1916. Mr. Winnett served until 1913, when H. G. Taylor, of Central City, took a seat on the commission. Mr. Taylor had defeated C. E. Harmon in the 1912 election, and was re-elected in 1918 and is still a member of this body. On December 1, 1911, Thomas L. Hall became a member of the commission to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Commissioner W. H. Cowgill, who had succeeded Commissioner Williams. William J. Furse has served by appointment following Commissioner Cowgill's death. Commissioner Hall was re-elected in 1914, and served from 1915 until date, but retired in January, 1921, not having again been a candidate for re-election to this office, but running for governor in the primaries of 1920. Commissioner Wilson resigned in 1919, and Sec. Thorne Browne was appointed in his place. Commissioner Browne in 1920 was elected to the seat of Commissioner Hall choosing the longer term rather than to succeed himself, for a four year balance, and Harry L. Cook was elected for the balance of Commissioner Browne's term. The secretaries of the commission have been Clark Perkins, from 1907 to 1912; A. B. Allen, 1912-1916; Thorne A. Browne, 1916-1920, and J. E. Curtiss, 1920.

RAILROADS' PALMY POLITICAL DAYS

On December 10, 1920, George W. Holdrege resigned as general manager of the lines west of the Burlington system, after continuous service in that capacity since 1886, and fifty-one years of service with this railroad in Nebraska. This occasion brought forth from the Nebraska State Journal some interesting reminiscences of railroad history of the state, which will aptly close this portion of our review.

For more than twenty-five years Mr. Holdrege wielded a political power that no man before him or since has essayed in Nebraska. Governors and United States senators, not to mention many other minor state officers, were made and unmade in his office in Omaha. In that period between the eclipse of VanWyck and the rise of George Sheldon and Norris Brown he reigned supreme. No man thought to run for any important state office until after he had gone to Omaha to see George W. Holdrege, and his office was the mecca of legislators and others active in republican politics.

Sought No Personal Advantage. Mr. Holdrege differed from the traditional political boss in that he never sought profit personally by reason of the power he wielded. A Burlington man first, last, and always, his power was employed solely to advance and protect the interests of that railroad. He made no alliances with disreputable elements. He made no effort to conceal either what he was doing

or how he did it. Himself he kept always in the background. Very rarely did he appear at Lincoln when the legislature was in session, or at other times. He dealt largely through agents, J. H. Ager, who recently died in Lincoln, being his most trusted man for many years.

The machine operated by Mr. Holdrege was organized along business lines, in each county through which the road ran. It was represented by a group of active politicians all of whom were holders of annual passes. One of the group, usually a lawyer or a banker, was the chief pass distributor for the county. He was supplied with blank books of passes issued in Mr. Holdrege's name, and he was free to use these as he pleased, but that power was subject to the rule that it must not be employed recklessly or unwisely. If he used it so, he lost his power and his pass, and they passed to another. The same fate awaited him if he failed to bring the delegation from that county to the state convention, and could not offer a reasonable explanation therefor.

This group was usually composed of one or two lawyers, bankers, business men, and a doctor or two, men who knew the political game and how to play upon the prejudices and ambitions of men. They made up the local machine, which fattened on its power to award offices and give out passes. Through the lax system of primaries by which delegates to county conventions were selected, an organized group, except where a vital issue that stirred voters to action, could invariably get control of the county conventions. They set up dummy candidates in precincts in order to control the votes of the precinct delegation, and then put these into a pot with the delegates brought in by the candidates they had previously decided to nominate, and thus controlled without any trouble.

Their principal job was to bring in the county delegation to the state convention, and thus the railroads controlled that gathering. They also recommended or picked candidates for the legislature, and were also permitted to salve their vanity by setting up as little local bosses, subject to correction and punishment for abuse of power.

The railroads had been in politics from the beginning of the state, but they never appeared so strongly in the open as they did after they had repelled first the granger movement that lifted VanWyck to eminence and later the populist movement. From then until 1906 a republican state convention, packed by railroad passholders, dictated party policies and the personnel of state officers. The Burlington was the master force for a number of years, due to the leadership of Holdrege, but in time the Union Pacific and Northwestern challenged its supremacy, and in a number of state conventions the battle was less between candidates than it was between railroads, as to which should control and dictate the principal nominees.

End of Railroad Politics. This condition of affairs was generally known and accepted, and it was not until 1906, when Sheldon as a candidate for governor and Brown as a candidate for senator challenged the right of the railroads to operate the state government and name the men who should fill the offices. The battle was a hot one. It was really lost in Lancaster County, where just before the convention the two contending forces, each desirous of getting a foothold in the state convention and each being fearful of defeat, had agreed on a truce by which the delegation was to be split. When Mr. Holdrege was informed of this agreement, sensing with his keen vision of politics that a victory in Lancaster was necessary

if the convention control was to be gained, he ordered his lieutenants to fight it out. They did, and lost by the narrow margin of a dozen votes in a convention of over eight hundred delegates.

The railroads were routed in that state convention and the next legislature put them out of politics by adopting a number of new laws; principally the direct primary and the abolition of the pass. Mr. Holdrege's reign ended then. It was only by the pass and the convention system that the railroads could control. Past successes had convinced ambitious young men that political preferment could be gained only through the existing railroad machine, and when the fetich was destroyed along with the organization, it ended all hope for the sort of controlled politics that had existed for so many years.

Accepted New Conditions. No rail manager ever accepted absolutely changed conditions more readily than Mr. Holdrege. Some of his friends said that taking political work away from railroads came as an absolute relief to the Burlington general manager. He devoted himself to railroading more arduously than ever, matters of railroad development and transportation receiving attention that formerly had been divided by attention to matters political.

When the Hill ownership came many said that a manager schooled as Mr. Holdrege had been in the old way of doing things could never take up the newer ways. To the surprise of some who knew him least he at once became a manager of the Hill type, an exponent of the Hill ideas in railroading, a manager who fitted in well in the new regime. He reorganized his forces and began the campaign of rebuilding and betterment that started with Hill ownership as energetically as he had entered the campaign of new building and expansion of the system in the rush building period of the '80s. Hill ownership and Hill methods had preceded the legislature of 1907, which put the railroads out of politics, and Mr. Holdrege found no lack of work to be done after he had been relieved of his political responsibilities. *

Mr. Holdrege Has No Regrets. In an interview in 1914, Mr. Holdrege was asked if he were to start life over again if he would be a railroad man.

"I have no reason to say I would not be," was the reply. "I like the work and always have."

"Are there opportunities today for the young man to forge ahead in railroad work as there were when you entered the service?"

"There is always a chance for young men to forge ahead," he said. "The future of our country is great and will become more important as time goes on."

"Would you advise a young man to enter railroad business for a life work?"

"That depends on the circumstances. There are splendid opportunities for young energetic men today in our business just as there always have been. If a young man likes the work I can see no reason why he should not choose it for his calling. I can say this: The railroad field is a good one for any energetic young man of today. To succeed in it requires hard work and plenty of it—fidelity to duty and a willingness to learn everything possible that can be learned about all that have to do with railroading."

CHAPTER IX

RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DURING THE THIRTIES—DURING THE FORTIES—DENOMINATIONAL BEGINNINGS—THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOL, AND THE SOCIETY—BELLEVUE—NEBRASKA CITY—OMAHA—GRAND LODGE, MASONIC—GRAND LODGE K. OF P.—PLATTSMOUTH—BROWNVILLE—NEMAHIA COUNTY—WASHINGTON COUNTY—TEKAMAH—COLUMBUS—FREMONT—TECUMSEH—FALLS CITY—BEATRICE—GRAND ISLAND—KEARNEY—NORTH PLATTE—LINCOLN—SCHUYLER—WAHOO—BLAIR—FAIRBURY—NORFOLK—MADISON—SEWARD—MILFORD—YORK—HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA—THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA—PROF. SAMUEL AUGHEY'S REVIEW OF THE STARTING OF THE UNIVERSITY—NEBRASKA COLLEGES, BY SOURCE OF SUPPORT—BY THE STATE—BAPTIST—CATHOLIC—PRESBYTERIAN—UNITED BRETHREN—DANISH LUTHERAN—LUTHERAN—METHODIST—EPISCOPAL—CONGREGATIONAL—NEBRASKA'S CARE FOR HER NEEDY.

Nebraska's attention to the cultivation of the religious, educational and social phases of life started practically coincident with the historical record of its settlements and governmental inaugurations.

It is not within our power in this brief review to go into any detailed historical record of each denomination of the many religious bodies which have carried on the most sacred work of life within the growing State of Nebraska. But we will endeavor to give a short chronology of the simultaneous religious development in this state by the various denominations.

Before 1833. If it be true that Quivera was located within the present boundaries of Nebraska, then Rev. John de Padilla, Franciscan friar, was the first Christian clergyman to officiate within the limits of Nebraska, as he accompanied Coronado in 1541. From 1670 to 1776 the region now known as Nebraska was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Quebec. It was placed subject to the diocese of Santiago de Cuba in 1777, and later fell under the sway of the French ecclesiastics. The various explorers of the Mississippi Valley were many of them priests of the Catholic faith.

1833. It was in this year that Rev. Moses Merrill and wife came as missionaries to Bellevue. Rev. Moses Merrill was the son of a Baptist minister of Sedgwick, Maine. He gave up his work of teaching in Michigan, in February, 1830, and devoted his attention to theological study, preaching and preparing to do missionary work among the Indians. He was married on June 1, 1830, to Miss Eliza Wilcox, and in September, 1832, they were appointed as missionaries by the Baptist Missionary Union to Sault Ste. Marie. From there they went to Shawnee Mission, Mo., and then came to Bellevue, Indian Territory (now

Nebraska) 200 miles from any white settlement, and there arrived on November 19th. A school for Indian children was at once opened, and preaching by an interpreter speedily followed. The Indians were visited, fed, counseled and befriended.

1834. The Merrills continued their work and undertook the preparation of an Otoe spelling book, a reading book making thirty pages duodecimo, and a hymn book. The Indians soon learned to sing the hymns of the little hymn book.

A Presbyterian mission for the Pawnees was undertaken in this year by Rev. Samuel Allis and Rev. John Dunbar. Reverend Dunbar first began work in 1834 among the Omaha Indians at Bellevue, and later extended his activities to the Pawnee Indians, as far up as Fullerton.

1835. In September of this year the Merrill family removed from Bellevue, six miles, to the vicinity of the new Otoe village, and occupied a log house, sixteen feet square, just completed. In December they moved into a larger house.

1836. On August 14th the first exercises in Otoe were held at the school house. The year 1837 continued along in a similar tenor. Additional mission buildings were completed and the first address to the Indians in Otoe was given. The work progressed on through 1838 and 1839, and in 1840 the spirit of this wonderful man was called to the home beyond. The Otoes, who knew him as "The-one-who-always-speaks-the-truth," inquired if he whom they mourned had not a brother who would come and take his place. Samuel Pearce Merrill, second son of this worthy couple, who prepared the memorial to his father, incorporated in Vol. 4, of Nebraska Historical Society Papers, p. 157, closed the same with this memorial observation:

"The journal record of hardships, losses, dangers, and narrow escapes with life gives reasons enough for the quick termination of this mission by the death of its leader. And the scenes of lust, drunkenness, lawlessness, and murder amid which the wife of this missionary employed herself in teaching these savages were enough to start the stoutest mind from its true center. Sickness, epidemics, cholera, and drunkenness worst of all, ravaged the tribe during these years."

The excerpts from the diary of this worthy missionary which follow in that volume, at pp. 160 to 191, are worth the attention of any one who would enjoy a glimpse of what difficulties church work in those early times met with.

In the '40s Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ward Pratt joined the Indian mission at the Pawnee villages in 1843, and Rev. William Kinney took that work up in 1846. The work of the Churches of Christ was initiated in Nebraska in 1845, with a sermon preached by a man named Foster, at a point on the south side of the North Platte River opposite the present town of Ogalalla.

It will be recalled that with the exception of the trading posts and Indian missions, the real settlement in Nebraska communities was deferred until 1853 and 1854.

DENOMINATIONAL BEGINNINGS

1855. The Baptist Church work started in this year upon a firm foundation. Beginning with the arrival of Rev. J. M. Taggart in the following year, their work speedily progressed, growing from his efforts to a record of 14 churches and 16 ministers by 1866, and around 200 churches some sixty years later.

In January of this year the Christian Church at Brownville was organized, through the efforts of Richard Brown, who had settled on the site of Brownville, and Joel M. Wood, with "Father" John Mullis associated with them.

The first Catholic church was established in Omaha in May or June of this year.

Rev. Henry M. Giltner crossed the Missouri River in this year and started out the work of the Presbyterian Church. Both the Baptists and Presbyterians organized churches at Nebraska City during this year.

1856. This year saw the foundation of Episcopalian activities in this state, with the organization of a mission at Omaha. The Congregational people also secured a start in this year.

1857. The United Presbyterians inaugurated their work with the organization of a small congregation at Rock Bluffs in Cass County. On January 6th Nebraska was established as a separate and relatively independent vicariate apostolic of the Roman Catholic Church.

1858. The Nebraska Baptists Association was organized in 1858. The Congregational people founded a college at Fontanelle and laid the foundation for the splendid work done by the various denominations in educational extension.

The work of the United Brethren Church in Nebraska began with a conference organized in this year by Bishop Edwards, with Rev. J. M. Dosh as the leading spirit. Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, pioneer of the work of the Lutheran Church in Nebraska, left Pittsburg in this year and came to Nebraska, his first church organized being the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Omaha.

The various denominations already mentioned were the pioneers in church work in Nebraska.

1860-1870. During the decade of the Civil war and the elevation of Nebraska to statehood still other denominations entered this field and began their worthy work. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states began work in this state in 1868. About that time the Reformed Church also entered the state. The Lutheran Missouri Synod's first church was on Rock Creek, near Beemer, in Cuming County.

This decade brought the turning point in the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska. On April 4, 1861, Nebraska was made a separate conference and separated from the Kansas-Nebraska conference, which had been operating as such since October, 1856. The first Nebraska activities of the church officially had been taken in June, 1854, but Rev. Harrison Presson had held a service in this territory in April, 1850.

Thus it will be seen that the Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists began church work in Nebraska almost before the permanent settlements were planted, and numerous other denominations followed so closely that it is impractical to attempt to rank these various splendid bodies in any order of arrival.

THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOL AND THE SOCIETY

It is impossible to take up each county in the state and go into proper detail in presenting the establishment and growth of the various churches, schools and fraternal and social societies. But we may be able to grasp a composite view of the faithful service rendered in the evolutionary development of the state from a

primitive wilderness to the wonderful Commonwealth of 1920, by reviewing the establishment or organization of the first churches, schools and lodges in the various communities. For this purpose we will take a hurried review of the various communities settled between 1854 and 1870, a period of approximately fifteen years, and which carries through the pioneering days of almost all parts of the state.

Noting which denominations organized the first two or three churches in the various communities will give some conception of the activities of each church, and will serve to show that practically all of the stronger denominations were not only in this field early, but very much in earnest.

The foundation stones of the American Republic have been: the *Home*: It was the first institution to be started in any community, for there was no town possible until a little group of settlers had established homes, however humble; the *State*, represented in the new border community at first by neighborhood co-operation in self-defense and guarding; then in local township and county government, and full espousal and participation in state affairs when the town, the township and the county organizations had been perfected; the *Church*: For no matter how far away from the old home back East, or from across the ocean, came the courageous settlers of the New West, they usually brought with them the Bible, and established Sabbath schools in some parlor, and soon received the holy minister of some denomination, and if the denomination to which they had been affiliated back East or across the Shores was not the first or the second to arrive in the new community, they usually worshipped faithfully with the one that did come, until their own special denominational form of worship was established in the community; the *School*: All countries have been composed of homes; the state in some form of government, and in their better days nestled close to the church. But the distinctively American contribution to the welfare of the world, has been the *Public School*. This is a democratic cornerstone in every sense of the word. Out on the wild prairie where were clustered a few humble houses, a store or two, a school was opened and the sons and daughters of each family attended school together. This idea has been carried out faithfully in American life, and today in village, rural district, town, or great city the son of the rich sits beside the son or daughter of the poor in this world's wealth. Then came into these new communities one more important factor in welding a community spirit, the wonderful social adhesive, the American lodge. In the busy days of the twentieth century, with automobiles to travel in nicer weather, so many wonderfully developed theatres and picture shows, lecture halls and places of entertainment and instruction, and with so many modern conveniences of pianos, player pianos, phonographs and libraries in the home, it is hardly possible for the present generation, with all of the devotion it possesses toward its lodges, fraternal societies and social organizations to realize fully what these meant to the pioneer of a generation or two ago.

Then there were no phonographs, but few pianos, no complete public library in the town, no automobiles to distract so many hours from mental pleasures, and the necessity for a certain amount of social intercourse and human fellowship with his neighbors could only be satisfied, beyond the neighborly family meetings, in the lodge room or lecture hall.

Reiterating that while we know we cannot take the space to go into every community in the state, or into every county, and pull aside the curtain and peer into the past, we will avail ourselves of the opportunity to take a "backward"

look into the establishment of church, school and lodge into those communities settled during the first fifteen years of the state's growth.

In order to more fully realize the short space of time that usually elapsed before these strengthening and socializing features of individual and community life arrived, we will after the name of the town, in parentheses, insert the year of its permanent settlement, or actual beginning as a community.

Bellevue (1844). Presbyterian Church—1855. Holy Trinity Episcopal 1861. The first Masonic Lodge in the state, Nebraska Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M. organized here in March, 1854. Bellevue Lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias, July 31, 1869. Public school building erected in 1869. The town was settled in 1844, organized or incorporated in 1856, and this shows the slow growth before territorial formation.

Nebraska City (Fort Kearney in 1846-1852-1854). First school taught by Miss Martin (later Mrs. Jessen) in spring of 1855. First Baptist Church organized August 18, 1855, at the old "frame meeting house." Preaching in community first by Rev. William D. Gage, a Methodist missionary, in 1854. Methodist Church organized in 1855 by Reverend Gage. Presbyterians organized August 10, 1855, Rev. H. M. Giltner, missionary. All Catholic work until 1859 in charge of Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas, under Rt. Rev. Bishop S. B. Meigs, of Leavenworth, Kan. This territory supplied in early years of Nebraska City and vicinity and other communities in southeastern corner of the state, by regular visits to various points under the supervision of the Benedictine fathers of Kansas. The first regular visitant was Rev. Augustine Wirth, O. S. B., who also visited Omaha. His successor in 1858 was Rev. Francis Cannon, O. S. B. He resided in Omaha for a time, and then came back to Nebraska City. In 1860 the parish at Nebraska City had so grown as to receive a regular minister, and Father Vogg was assigned to this point. This extended treatment of the early Catholic work has been given at this point, so it may be referred to in review of other communities without having to repeat it in detail each time. A church was started on Kearney Heights in 1860, and in 1865 a Benedictine sister founded an academy here. Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., organized 1855. Nebraska City Lodge No. 1, Odd Fellows, May, 1855, later merged in Frontier Lodge No. 3.

Omaha (1853 and 1854). First clergyman to visit Omaha is supposed to have been Dr. Gregory of Syracuse, N. Y., a divine of the Episcopal Church, and a chaplain at Fort Leavenworth in 1835. Church services were first started in 1855, and a mission established on July 13, 1856. St. Marks, an outgrowth of Trinity Mission, 1867, and St. Barnabas Church, May 3, 1869. First Methodist Church started in 1854, with regular missionary in 1855. First Congregational, 1855; First Baptist, 1855, Rev. Wm. Leach as missionary. First Presbyterian, 1857, Rev. George P. Bergen first missionary; Latter Day Saints (Mormons) of course had a church here as early as 1847. A Young Men's Christian Association was organized as early as November 22, 1867.

First public school was opened November 1, 1859.

Capital Lodge No. 3, A. F. & A. M., organized January 26, 1857. Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M., organized at Masonic Hall in Omaha.

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A., F. & A. M.—This grand Masonic body was organized in the Masonic hall in Omaha, September 23, 1857, by delegates from

Nebraska Lodge No. 1, of Bellevue; Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Nebraska City; and Capital Lodge No. 3, of Omaha. Its first officers were R. C. Jordan, Grand Master; L. L. Bowen, Deputy Grand Master; David Lindley, Grand Senior Warden; L. B. Kinney, Grand Junior Warden; William Anderson, Grand Treasurer; George Armstrong, Grand Secretary; John M. Chivington, Grand Chaplain; Horatio N. Cornell, Grand Marshal; Charles W. Hamilton, Grand Senior Deacon; John A. Nye, Grand Junior Deacon. The officers in 1882 were James R. Cain of Falls City, Grand Master; Edwin F. Warren, Nebraska City, Deputy Grand Master; Samuel W. Hayes, Norfolk, Grand Senior Warden; John G. Wemple, Hastings, Grand Junior Warden; Christian Hartman, Omaha, Grand Treasurer; William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Secretary; George Scott, Sutton, Grand Chaplain; James S. Gilham, Red Cloud, Grand Orator; Lee P. Gillette, Lincoln, Grand Lecturer; Alfred S. Palmer, Lincoln, Grand Marshal; Francis E. White, Plattsmouth, Grand Senior Deacon; Frank E. Bullard, North Platte, G. J. D.; John McClelland, Lincoln, Grand Tiler. The lodge meets annually on the festival of St. John the Baptist (June 24) at such place as is designated at its previous meeting.

The Grand Chapter of Nebraska, R. A. M., was organized March 19, 1867. The first officers were: H. P. Deuel, Grand High Priest; James W. Moore, Deputy Grand High Priest; Daniel H. Wheeler, Grand King; Edwin A. Allen, Grand Scribe; Orsamus H. Irish, Grand Treasurer; Elbert T. Duke, Grand Secretary; George C. Betts, Grand Chaplain. The officers in 1882 were Samuel P. Davidson, Grand High Priest, Tecumseh; William H. Munger, Deputy Grand High Priest, Fremont; James A. Tulleys, Grand King, Red Cloud; Henry E. Palmer, Grand Scribe, Plattsmouth; Christian Hartman, Grand Treasurer, Omaha; William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary, Omaha; Frank E. Bullard, Grand Chaplain, North Platte; Robert W. Furnas, Grand Lecturer, Brownville; Oren N. Wheelock, Grand Captain of the Host, Beatrice; Parley M. Hartson, Grand Principal Sojourner, Omaha; James Tyler, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Lincoln; Ithamar T. Benjamin, Grand Master Third Vail, Crete; Walter J. Thompson, Grand Master Second Vail, Hebron; John D. Moore, Grand Master First Vail, Grand Island; Emanuel Fist, Jr., Grand Steward, Hastings; Wilson M. Maddox, Grand Steward, Falls City; Francis S. White, Grand Sentinel, Plattsmouth.

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska was organized December 28, 1871. Its first officers were: H. P. Deuel, Grand Commander; William E. Hill, Deputy Grand Commander; James M. Hurty, Grand Generalissimo; D. H. Wheeler, Grand Captain General; G. C. Betts, Grand Prelate; C. S. Chase, Grand Senior Warden; R. H. Oakley, Grand Junior Warden; Henry Bowen, Grand Treasurer; Robert W. Furnas, Grand Recorder. The officers in 1882 were: Eben K. Long, Omaha, Grand Commander; Francis E. White, Plattsmouth, Deputy Grand Commander; Samuel G. Owen, Lincoln, Grand Generalissimo; Charles B. Palmer, Beatrice, Grand Captain General; Frank E. Bullard, North Platte, Grand Prelate; Thomas Sewell, Lincoln, Grand Senior Warden; James R. Cain, Falls City, Grand Junior Warden; James S. France, Omaha, Grand Treasurer; William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Recorder; Dennis H. Andrews, Crete, Grand Standard Bearer; William H. Munger, Fremont, Grand Sword Bearer; John J. Wemple, Hastings, Grand Warden; Morris L. Alexander, Hastings, Grand Captain of the Guards.

I. O. O. F.

The Odd Fellows also secured an early start in Omaha.

The first lodge of the I. O. O. F. in Nebraska was Nebraska Lodge No. 1, at Nebraska City, instituted May 29, 1855. This was followed by Omaha Lodge, No. 2, which was instituted January 1, 1856, under a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of the United States, dated November 17, 1855, and signed by William Eggleston, Grand Sire. The lodge was organized by J. P. Cassady, P. G., of Council Bluffs, and the following officers installed: A. D. Jones, N. G.; T. G. Goodwill, V. G.; A. S. Bishop, Sec.; George Armstrong, Per. Sec.; H. D. Johnson, Treas. This meeting and a few succeeding ones were held in the former council chamber of the old brick capitol. H. C. Anderson was the first candidate initiated into the mysteries of the order. Their meetings were held in Odd Fellow's Hall, on every Friday evening.

Allemanan Lodge No. 8, was instituted March 26, 1864. The charter members were Henry Grebe, W. Doll, J. T. Paulsen, H. Bruening and J. Schneider. The first officers were A. Grebe, N. G.; H. Bruening, V. G.; J. T. Paulsen, Sec.; W. Doll, Treas. The lodge met every Wednesday evening in Odd Fellow's Hall.

The Knights of Pythias order was started in Nebraska with the organization of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, August 13, 1868, and installed in October. George H. Crager came to this state for the purpose of rendering himself conspicuous in promulgating the principles of this wonderful order. Damon Lodge No. 2 of the same order was granted a dispensation on the 29th of April, 1869.

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Knights of Pythias, was organized October 13, 1869, at Pythian Hall, in Omaha, at 515 Fourteenth Street, by the following representatives of their respective lodges: H. B. Case, Dr. L. F. Babcock, John Taylor, of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, of Omaha; Dr. O. S. Wood, J. J. Curtis, E. E. French, of Damon Lodge No. 2, of Omaha; John Q. Goss, of Bellevue Lodge No. 3, of Bellevue; John F. Kuhn, Charles Hollo, of Planet Lodge No. 4, of Omaha; William L. Wells, of Platte Valley Lodge No. 5, of Plattsmouth. The following officers having been elected were presented and installed by Supreme Chancellor Read; Ven. G. P., George H. Crager, of No. 1; G. C., David Carter, of No. 2; V. G. C., John Q. Goss, of No. 3; G. R. & C. S., E. E. French, of No. 2; G. B., T. C. Brunner, of No. 1; G. G., William L. Wells, of No. 5; G. I. S., John F. Kuhn, of No. 4; G. O. S., John Taylor, of No. 1. There were, in 1882, in the State of Nebraska, twenty-seven subordinate lodges working by the authority of this Grand Lodge. The officers of the Grand Lodge in 1882 were: P. G. C., Frederick Mutton; G. C., H. F. Downs; V. G. C., J. G. Jones; G. P., Rev. W. E. Copeland; G. M. of the E., Joseph Rosenstein; G. K. of R. & S., E. E. French; G. M. at A., L. C. Dunn; G. I. S., Daniel M. Stall; G. O. S., John Forrer; G. L., John Q. Goss; S. R., John J. Morrell, Jr., and J. S. Shropshire. The Grand Lodge met annually at such place as was designated at its previous meeting.

Plattsmouth (1853). The first sermon was preached in October, 1856, at the house of Thomas Ashley, by Abraham Towner, who was appointed probate judge by Governor Cuming in the next March. This illustrates the necessity the early settlers often felt of starting religious services before a church could be organized. The early churches of this community were: First Baptist, October 17, 1856; First Methodist Episcopal, organized June 29, 1857, with twenty members under

pastorate of Rev. Hiram Burch. First Presbyterian initiated in May, 1858, through efforts of Rev. John Hughes. Christian Church organized in May, 1858. St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal, August, 1860. St. John's Catholic, 1860, building erected in 1861.

Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M., dispensation, January 18, 1858. Plattsmouth Lodge No. 7, I. O. O. F., March 4, 1874.

The first school was taught in a frame building then standing on Gospel Hill, in 1856, by Mary Stocking.

Brownville (1854). The first school district in Nemaha County was No. 1, H. S. Thorpe, teacher. By 1860 the county had six districts, with one schoolhouse in Brownville and two in Glen Rock township.

Christian Church organized at Brownville, January, 1855; Methodist Episcopal, February, 1858; Congregational, June 23, 1858; Presbyterian, October 31, 1858; Christ Church (Episcopal), 1863. Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., organized at the residence of Jesse Noel on September 27, 1857; I. O. O. F., on September 24, 1857; I. O. G. T., October 12, 1867; Dramatic Society, 1876, and Cornet Band in 1868.

Nemaha City (1854). First school, 1857-8. Methodists organized in 1857; St. John's Protestant Episcopal, September 18, 1860; Christian Church, 1865.

Hope Lodge No. 29, A. F. & A. M., November 18, 1868; I. O. O. F. Nemaha City Lodge No. 40, October, 1873; I. O. G. T. (Independent Order of Good Templars), Nemaha City Lodge No. 109, March, 1873. As we progress through this review, the numbers assigned to the various lodges indicate the rate of progress that had been made by the various leading fraternal orders up to that time.

Peru (1855). The first sermon in Peru was by a Methodist minister, Rev. W. S. Horn, in 1855. Their church was the first erected in Peru, in 1859, though a class had been organized in 1857. The first lodge of the Good Templars in Nebraska was organized in Peru, and through its instrumentality a saloon was kept out of the town regularly for many years. The district schoolhouse was erected in 1858.

Washington County Towns (1854); *Fontanelle* (1854); This town secured the charter for a college named "Nebraska University" in 1856, and a Congregational Academy was opened that year, with Professor Burt as the first principal.

Fort Calhoun (1854). In the summer of 1856, religious services were held in the court house once a month, being conducted by Rev. Mr. Collins of Omaha, a Methodist missionary. This fact again illustrates the methods used to secure religious worship before a church could be started.

De Soto (1854). Reverend Collins held meetings here in 1855. At one time while this gentleman was holding meeting some rowdies threw a dead dog through the window from the outside. Upon which he remarked, "My friends, the devil is not dead in De Soto yet," and immediately resumed the services. The Methodists secured their first resident minister in 1857.

Tekamah (1855). The Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran and Episcopal were the first five churches erected. Methodist organization, 1856.

Columbus (1856). School work was organized in Platte County early in 1860. St. John's Catholic Church was organized in 1860; the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis established a hospital, monastery and school of the Francis-

cans in the late '70s; Congregational Society organized in 1865; Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) 1865; Presbyterian, November 1, 1869; German Reformed, 1872; Grace Episcopal, 1869; Methodist Episcopal, 1877; Baptist, 1880. Wildey Lodge No. 44, I. O. O. F., March 5, 1874; Lebanon Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., June 24, 1875; W. C. T. U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union), 1877.

Fremont (1856). Miss Charity Colson taught school in Fremont during the summer of 1858. Miss McNeal the next summer taught the first district school.

Congregational Church was first, with Rev. I. E. Heaton as its first pastor, November 2, 1856. Methodist organization made in summer of 1857; St. James Episcopal, 1865; Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1869; Presbyterian, November 23, 1873. German Evangelical also organized in 1873; First Baptist, 1869.

Fremont Lodge No. 15, A. F. & A. M., dispensation, July 24, 1866; Fremont Lodge No. 859, Knights of Honor, January 24, 1878; Royal Arcanum, 1879; W. C. T. U., 1877; Y. M. C. A., December, 1869.

Tecumseh (1857). The Catholic church was the first church building erected in Tecumseh, in 1868. Methodists organized in 1865, with settled pastor in 1873; Presbyterians organized in 1870, and secured a church in 1873. St. Andrews Roman Catholic Mission was formed in 1866. Tecumseh Lodge No. 17, A. F. & A. M., organized October 3, 1867; Hamlin Lodge No. 24, I. O. O. F., instituted October 9, 1872; G. A. R. organized, May 1879; Tecumseh Lodge No. 17, K. of P., organized March 30, 1874; K. O. H., 1879; W. C. T. U., 1877.

Falls City (laid out in 1857). Methodist Church organized in Falls City in 1856, following similar organization at Archer, in 1855, with Rev. David Hart as the traveling missionary of this vicinity. Presbyterian organization, 1866; St. Thomas Episcopal, 1867; Baptist, 1873; Christian, 1876. Falls City Lodge No. 13, I. O. O. F., September 28, 1869; Richardson County District Lodge No. 1, I. O. G. T., April 2, 1879; Falls City Lodge No. 18, Knights of Pythias, June, 1874; Falls City Lodge No. 9, A. F. & A. M., October 13, 1864; G. A. R., 1882.

Rulo (1857). Methodist Church, 1864; Baptist, 1866; St. Peter's Episcopal, 1867; The Church of Immaculate Conception, 1870, though Catholic mission here since 1858, at times conducted. Orient Lodge, No. 13, Masonic, June 19, 1867; Rulo Lodge No. 12, I. O. O. F., January 28, 1869; Rulo Lodge No. 132, I. O. G. T., June 7, 1878.

* *Beatrice* (1857). The first school house in Beatrice was built upon the square known as the School Block, with Mrs. Francis Butler as first teacher. The Methodist Church organized about 1860, with Rev. John Foster, as pastor; Presbyterian, 1869; Christ Church (Episcopal) April, 1871; Christian Church, October, 1872; First Baptist, 1873; German Baptists, commonly called "Dunkards," 1875; German Methodists in Clatonia precinct, in 1870; Lutherans in 1875. Blue Lodge No. 26, A. F. & A. M., was organized in 1869; Beatrice Lodge No. 19, I. O. O. F., instituted May 24, 1870; Knights of Honor, 1880; G. A. R. post, February, 1880; Good Templars, 1874; W. C. T. U., 1880.

Grand Island (1857). As early as 1864 a private school was conducted in the neighborhood adjacent to present Grand Island, where the first Grand Island

settlement was located. This school was upon the Theo. Nagel farm, and a number of scholars attended Mr. Nagel's classes there. The school district Number Two, that of the City of Grand Island, was formally organized in 1868. The first public school was held in a one-story frame building on Second Street, opposite the present City Hall Block. Hon. O. A. Abbott, Sr., the first lieutenant governor of the state, was the first teacher in that public school building.

The church history of Hall County begins with the establishment of public worship by the Catholics near Wood River in 1861. The first Catholic church organization, however, was at Grand Island in 1864, with mass said by Father Ryan of Columbus once a month. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island was organized in the summer of 1871. The Methodist Church here was organized in February, 1872; Baptist in 1870; Presbyterian in 1869, by Rev. Shedon Jackson; United Brethren, 1876; Evangelical Lutheran, 1882. Grand Island has become the see city of the Western or Platte diocese in Nebraska for the Catholic Church, with Bishop Duffy located here, and is a strong Lutheran center, with several Lutheran churches.

Ashlar Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M., organized October 5, 1870; Grand Island Lodge No. 60, I. O. G. T., and Sons of Temperance early in the '70s; Grand Island Lodge No. 22, I. O. O. F., December 17, 1870; K. of P. Nysian Lodge No. 46, 1885. The Grand Lodge of the A. O. U. W. of the State of Nebraska was organized June 8, 1886 at Grand Island. It was chartered under the Supreme Lodge, A. O. U. W., but in 1909 became a separate jurisdiction, and its headquarters is located at Grand Island, where it owns its own office building.

From this point on, space will not permit the taking up in detail of every town, as it appears on the list of communities settled, and a few more cities in different parts of the state will be selected, to illustrate the spread of the various denominations and orders throughout the state.

Kearney (1866). The first church organized in Kearney was the Methodist Episcopal, October 20, 1871, by Elder A. G. White and Rev. A. Collins; Presbyterian, 1872; Congregational, 1872; Baptists built in 1878 and Christian in 1879, and Episcopalians in 1882. The Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1875.

Robert Morris Lodge No. 45, A. F. & A. M., organized in 1875; Buffalo Lodge 38, I. O. O. F., 1873; G. A. R., 1874; Good Templars, 1873; W. C. T. U., in 1873.

North Platte (1866). The first school was taught in a small log house in 1868. The first church services in North Platte were held by a Rev. Mr. Cooke, a Lutheran minister. The Baptists built the first church in 1871. The Episcopal Church was built in 1873. The Catholic, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Lutheran and Methodist built later in the '70s.

Lincoln (1867). The first school in Lincoln was taught in a small stone schoolhouse, built by the directors in the fall of 1867, and situated at the corner of Q and Eleventh streets. After the school had graduated to a better building, this landmark became a temporary bastille for the confinement of the offenders against the peace of the city.

The first church organized in Lincoln was the Congregational, on August 19, 1866, or in fact this was in Lancaster, as the place was then named. The other denominations came in soon after the location of this fair, Capital City; German

Methodist, 1867; Methodist in the spring of 1868 with their first house of worship on Tenth Street; Roman Catholic, in 1868, and their beautiful St. Theresa edifice built in 1879; Presbyterian, 1869; Episcopal, November 17, 1868, with a vestry chosen in May, 1869; Baptist, August 22, 1869; Christian, winter of 1869; Universalist, September 1, 1870; African Methodist, 1873; Colored Baptists, 1879; Lincoln not only started out with numerous churches, but no city of its size ever more faithfully, loyally and sincerely supported church work and moral reforms of every creed, purpose and description. Having grown to a city with a student population of approximately seven to nine thousand within its gates nine months in the year, attending the State University and almost a dozen other colleges and schools within its borders and suburbs, this community feels a special responsibility to keep a wholesome atmosphere tending to the student welfare; even at the expense of certain pleasures for its own citizens that many other communities accept.

Four chapters of the Masonic order were early instituted in Lincoln: Lincoln Lodge No. 19, 1868; Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, 1874; and the Chapter No. 6, R. A. M., 1878, and Commandery No. 4, 1871. The Odd Fellows instituted three lodges: Capital No. 11, 1868; Lancaster, No. 39, 1873; and Germania, No. 67, 1878; K. P. P. Lincoln Lodge No. 16, 1873, and the various orders came in as rapidly as possible during the '70s and early '80s.

Schuyler (1869). Early churches were Presbyterian, 1869; Methodist Episcopal, 1869; Holy Trinity Parish of Episcopal, July 4, 1870; St. Paul's Catholic, organized in 1879; and Seventh Day Adventists, 1881.

Acacia Lodge No. 34, A. F. & A. M., June 19, 1872; Schuyler Lodge No. 28, I. O. O. F., July 8, 1871; Sheridan Post, No. 34, G. A. R., February 25, 1880.

Wahoo (1869). Schools were started in Wahoo and at section 26, three miles north of Wahoo, shortly after the first settlements, and a school house was built in the country as early as 1870.

The Congregational society organized in Wahoo, in 1870, but services had been held for two years preceding in the schoolhouse. The Fremont and Wahoo Reformed Presbyterian Church was organized in 1871; the Methodist's first class in 1873; Catholic parish was organized in 1879, and Baptist in 1876.

Masonic Lodge here was started January 30, 1875, and Pioneer Lodge, C. S. P. S., March 24, 1878.

Blair (1869). First school, 1869, taught by Miss Sarah E. Kibby, though in 1868 Miss Lida M. Newall taught in the same little log house. Methodist Episcopal church moved over from Cuming City in the summer of 1869. Congregational work started February 12, 1870; Baptists, April, 1869, and their building was brought over from Cuming City in the fall of 1872. United Brethren built in 1879 and the Catholics late in the seventies. Cuming City Lodge No. 21, Masonic, chartered June 25, 1868, and name changed in November, 1869, to Washington Lodge. The Odd Fellows were instituted October 1, 1869; John A. Dix Post of G. A. R., organized July 2, 1880.

Fairbury (1869). The first school, in 1870, taught by Dr. R. S. Chapman. The early churches were, First Baptist, July 3, 1878, but services had started in 1870; Methodist, established October, 1870; Presbyterian, January, 1871; Christian, October, 1871; Fairbury Lodge No. 35, A. F. & A. M., 1871; Lodge No. 54, Odd Fellows, 1874; Russell Post No. 77, G. A. R., September 19, 1881.

Norfolk (1869). The first church building was erected in the fall of 1867 by the German Lutherans. This congregation built a nice structure in 1878 and a second German Lutheran congregation also built that year. Congregationalists built in 1872, the Catholics in 1882, and the Methodists and Episcopalians in the meantime. Mosaic Lodge No. 55, A. F. & A. M., started October 1, 1874; Norfolk Lodge No. 46, I. O. O. F., June 10, 1874.

Madison. This town was settled in 1875, and is county seat of Madison County. The Presbyterian Church was organized here in 1870; Catholic, 1880; Lutherans, 1875.

Seward (1870). Early churches organized in Seward were: First Presbyterian, August, 1867, church built in 1870; First Methodist, as a mission in 1869, formally organized July 9, 1870; First Missionary Baptist, March 1, 1870; St. John's Lutheran, March, 1874; German Evangelical, 1877; United Brethren, 1879. Oliver Lodge No. 38, A. F. & A. M., July 29, 1871; I. O. O. F., Seward Lodge No. 26, instituted May 30, 1871; Seward Post No. 3, G. A. R., December 16, 1880.

Milford (1866). In Seward County the Congregational Church organized April 10, 1869; Baptist, in summer of 1870; Methodist Episcopal had a mission at Milford as early as 1866. Emmanuel Evangelical Church was organized in May, 1880. Blue River Lodge No. 30, A. F. & A. M., chartered April 25, 1870; Milford Lodge No. 18, I. O. O. F., chartered May 30, 1870; Winslow Post, G. A. R., mustered in September 1, 1880. J. H. Culver, Company K, First Wisconsin Infantry, one of the charter members of this post, has been a leader in G. A. R. work in Nebraska, and he and numerous associates were instrumental in securing a soldiers' home for Milford.

York (1870). The school district was organized June 14, 1871. The organization of the Methodist class was perfected in the spring of 1871 at the David Baker home. Ex-Judge W. E. Morgan took charge of this as the York Mission, which then included the entire county. The Presbyterian church organized July 23, 1871, in a group of elms. St. Joseph's Catholic was started as a mission in 1877. Congregational Church, 1872; Universalist, 1880. York Lodge No. 56, A. F. & A. M., granted dispensation August 2, 1874; York Lodge No. 35, I. O. O. F., chartered October 2, 1872; Robert Anderson, Post No. 24, G. A. R., mustered in during summer of 1880.

This brings us to 1871, a year in which a myriad of towns were settled, and to prolong this review would only be to repeat the points already emphasized, though we give credit to the pioneers of communities just as much entitled to a review as those that have been so far treated.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA

This brief review of the development of Nebraska would not be complete without a brief chronological charting of the many wonderful institutions of higher education built up in Nebraska. This state has taken an interest in education not surpassed by any commonwealth in the country. The separate history of practically every county in the state will show that the schoolhouse arrived about the same time as the first log houses, the courthouse, or any business houses.

In fact, many of the first schools of the state, like the Church Sabbath schools started in the living room of some good mother who not only realized the necessity of giving instructions to her own children, but gathered under her wing those of her neighbors. From the small soddy or rough hut of logs and rough boards, the school house soon graduated to a small building of its own, which it generally shared with the Sunday and mid-week evening church services, until the church also was housed in its own home. But Nebraska has not stopped with the graded schools and its wonderful high schools, but it has a myriad of small colleges and several larger universities. Its State University has enjoyed such a phenomenal growth in attendance that it has up to date been impossible to keep an adequate building program moving as fast as the university's growth and physical needs. The attendance of this institution places it in the rank of the foremost dozen schools of the nation. But no adequate amount of credit can ever be given to the various denominations of this state, who have fostered and developed a group of small colleges, not so important in quantity of attendance, but surpassed by no schools, big or little, east or west, in the quality of their work, the splendid atmosphere and cultural opportunities they afford.

1855. The Congregational people were the pioneers of higher education in Nebraska. Just as these people fostered the foundation of Harvard in 1636 and Yale in 1701, they came into Nebraska as early as 1858 and took measures to lay the foundation of a "literary institution of a high order in Nebraska." This resulted in the foundation of a school located at Fontanelle, in February, 1855, known as the Fontanelle School, which was transferred to the Congregationalists in 1858. Fontanelle missed the distinction of becoming a railroad center. Fremont secured the county seat of Dodge County and Fontanelle was set over into Washington County, and all of these circumstances conspired against its becoming a school center, with the ultimate result that this institution was abandoned, and the new Doane College at Crete became its successor in 1872.

1863. The institution with longest continuous existence in the state is Brownell Hall, a girl's school at Omaha started by the Episcopal Church. Bishop Talbot had purchased a property in 1861 in old Saratoga, at what is now Twenty-fourth and Grand Avenue, of the City of Omaha. A girl's boarding school was started soon thereafter and named "Brownell" in honor of the Bishop of Connecticut, a diocese from which considerable financial aid was being received for this work.

1869. *The University of Nebraska* was the next educational institution in point of time, and the first great educational endeavor of the state. The legislature in 1869 founded this university and provided for its organizations by legislative acts, also in 1875 and 1877. Students were received first in 1871 and its growth has continued until it has reached the neighborhood of approximately five thousand.

The congressional act of 1862 had provided for an endowment of land in each state for the maintenance of at least one college in each state. Nebraska's share of such land amounted to 90,000 acres, and the enabling act of 1864 set aside seventy-two sections of land for this purpose, the grant also requiring that instruction must be given in military training. The legislative act of 1869 fixed the board of regents at twelve, but the constitution of 1875 fixed this board at six members, elected at large, for six year terms, the new constitutional amendments of 1920 fixing the election of these regents by districts. The university act also provided for a model farm on two sections of agricultural lands, and this enter-

prise was located about two miles and a half from the main campus, and has developed into the large "State Farm" or Agricultural College campus. The university has spread its activities now, so that in addition to the two campuses in and about the city of Lincoln, it has a large medical college and state hospital at Omaha; an agricultural college at Curtis, an irrigation college at Scottsbluff, and experimental substations at North Platte, Valentine and Scottsbluff.

The University of Nebraska has been fortunate in the high character and standing of the men who have held the office of chancellor. These men have been: Allen R. Benton, January 6, 1870, to June 22, 1876; Edmond B. Fairfield, June 23, 1876, to 1883; Dean E. B. Hitchcock, acting chancellor, 1883, to January 1, 1884; Irving J. Manett, January 1, 1884, to June 1, 1889; Charles E. Bessey, acting chancellor, January 1, 1889, to August 1, 1891, and Dean Bessey preferring remaining in charge of the botany work to assuming permanently either the responsibilities of the executive administration of the great school or accepting any of the many more lucrative offers he received in the latter years of his life from other schools; James H. Canfield, August 1, 1891, to September 1, 1895; George E. MacLean, September 1, 1895, to September 1, 1899; Charles E. Bessey served again from September 1, 1899, to August 1, 1900; E. Benjamin Andrews, August 1, 1900, to January 1, 1909; Samuel Avery, acting chancellor, January 1, 1909, to May 20, 1909, when he was made chancellor. Professor Avery was head of the Department of Chemistry and was chosen as a result of desire to select some man from the staff of the university, an alumnus and a thorough Nebraskan rather than to import an educator for this responsibility. Chancellor Avery is still serving in 1921, but during his absence in war service in 1918 Dean W. G. Hastings of the Law College was acting chancellor.

The buildings of the university include not only the old familiar landmarks, such as University Hall, built in 1869-70; Chemical Laboratory, 1885-6; Grant Memorial Hall, 1888; Nebraska Hall, 1888-9; Boiler House, 1889; Electrical Power House, 1891; Library Building, 1892 and 1896; Mechanics Art, 1898, but also the many new buildings at the farm campus, and the new Bessey Hall, Social Science Hall and the other buildings being erected in accordance with the new program adopted in 1914 and 1915.

The compiler of this historical review is going to depart at this point from his prevailing rule of brevity which is shutting out of this work many things he knows the readers would appreciate, to include a rather lengthy address delivered on Charter Day, February 15, 1881, by Prof. Samuel Aughey, one of the first professors, to whom we are indebted for many of the facts concerning the geological and natural features of Nebraska. In the compilation of the lengthy History of Nebraska in 1882 by the Western Historical Company, it was seen fit also to insert this. It will give the reader an early history not only of the State University, but also of the difficulties and struggles of early higher education in Nebraska.

"The Territorial Legislature of 1865 and 1866 prepared a State Constitution, which was submitted to the people June 2, 1866. It was preceded by a somewhat bitter discussion. Among the arguments urged for its adoption was the fact that the sooner it was accomplished the finer the lands that could be obtained for educational and internal improvement purposes. After the vote was taken the constitution was declared carried. One of the provisions of the enabling act was that lands for an agricultural college and university must be accepted within three years, and

colleges opened within five years afterwards. The trust was accepted by the State, and it received from the general government the promised gift. It is questionable whether the lands for internal improvements were wisely expended. Fortunately, however, the lands for the endowment of the agricultural college and university remain comparatively intact, and a wise provision of law prevents them from being squandered. The leasing and sale of them is so regulated as ultimately to secure a princely endowment for these institutions.

"The Legislature that met in January, 1869, passed an act on the 15th of February—twelve years ago—to establish a state university, vesting its government in a board of regents, to be appointed, in the first instance, by the governor, who was ex-officio chairman; the superintendent of public instruction and the chancellor of the university being also members of the board. Under the new constitution the government is vested, as is well known, in a board of six regents, whose terms of office last six years, two new ones being elected every two years by the people. Previous to this—June 14, 1867—in the act for locating the seat of government, the agricultural college and the state university were united.

"By an act of February 15, 1869, the governor, secretary of state, and auditor were appointed to sell the unsold blocks in Lincoln owned by the state, and to locate and erect a university building. Of the sum realized in this way, \$100,000 was appropriated for this purpose. On the following first of June the plans and specifications prepared by M. J. McBird, then of Logansport, Indiana, were accepted by the capital commissioners for the university building. These plans were submitted to the board of regents June 3, 1869, and accepted, subject to any modifications which they might suggest. The contract for building was given to D. J. Silver & Son, of Logansport, Ind., on the same day. About the middle of July, the contractors commenced work, and the walls were so far completed by September 23, that the corner stone could be laid, which was done with Masonic ceremonies, under the management of the Grand Lodge of the State. The committee of citizens who had charge of the ceremonies raised a subscription among themselves and hired a band in Omaha for \$375 and expenses. They traveled here all the way from Omaha in carriages. A free banquet to all the citizens from abroad was also given by the people, at their own expense. The basement was completed during the first week in December. In the meantime the architect had made such changes and amendments in the plan of the building as the regents had indicated. These changes greatly increased the cost of the building. The contract for completing the university was finally given to D. J. Silver & Son, in pursuance of advertisements, for \$128,480, which, with the previous cost of the excavation and basement, made the entire cost \$152,000.

"The contractors for the university pushed the work with remarkable energy. At this day it is hard to realize the disadvantages under which they labored. The lumber was shipped from Chicago to East Nebraska City, four miles east of the Missouri in Iowa, opposite to the present Nebraska City. It was hauled to Lincoln in wagons, over wretched roads, a distance of sixty-five miles. The contractors paid \$10 a cord for wood with which to burn brick, and which was hauled from twenty to thirty-five miles. On April 7, 1870, the brick work was commenced, and though there was an interruption of three weeks for want of brick, the walls were completed and the roof on by the middle of the following August. In eighty-two days 1,500,000 brick were made and put in these university walls. The university

building has from that time been under the guardianship of the board of regents. They determined to open it the year following its completion. By their permission this chapel was used for various literary entertainments, up to the time of its formal opening, on September 7, 1871.

"Here let us pause to consider the step which this then infant state took in undertaking the establishment of a university. When the bill establishing a university became law on February 15, 1869, the population was barely 100,000. Even the few high schools that existed could barely prepare students for the freshman class, and very few students anywhere were in such stage of preparation. The state, too, was mainly settled by persons of comparatively small means, seeking homes for themselves and families. Little of the prairie had yet been brought under agricultural subjection. The state was rich prospectively, but really poor practically. And yet it was proposed to establish such an institution several years in advance of the time required by the United States law, in order to hold the large grants of land for the support of the agricultural college and university. Under these circumstances many claimed that it would be wiser to wait for an increase in population and wealth, and the building up of preparatory schools before inaugurating such an enterprise. Others again wished to relegate the higher education wholly to the Christian denominations, by whom for generations it had been controlled in the Eastern States.

"Against these arguments, on the other hand, it was urged that a new state could not too early establish the higher educational institutions. That the most distinguished colleges in the East originated during the infancy of the commonwealths which they have made glorious; that Massachusetts, for example, owes her political and intellectual glory to the fact that Harvard has for generations, and from its earliest history, been training her sons; that Yale performed the same duty for another colony, and is now great because she, too, began her career so early in the history of the commonwealth which she also is making illustrious. There were others, too, who felt at that time, and urged it upon the people of the state, that the time had come when an advance should be made on traditional methods of education. The state had provided a magnificent free school system. To perfect that scheme, the higher education needed to be furnished to the youth of the state on the same terms as the common schools provided elementary instruction. To do this, a university was needed—a university 'by the people and for the people'—an institution which should be expressive of intellectual life, not of the past or present, but of all time.

"There were many advanced spirits in Nebraska even at that early day. They realized that culture was something desirable for its own sake. Prairies indeed had to be subdued, but other interests besides that of the dollar were most desirable, and among these culture in distinction from mere knowledge, technical or general, was regarded as most important. There was another class more limited than the former in influence and numbers, that desired a university solely because of the advertisement which it would give the state abroad. They held, and that truthfully, that an institution of learning of high grade would attract the cultivated emigrants into our borders, and be the most powerful factor in securing the settlement of this infant commonwealth. Others again, and this was a still smaller class, a class that had received a one-sided impulse, by a narrow range of reading and study, could see no good in a university unless its professors devoted themselves wholly to studies in

natural history or physics. They pointed to the unstudied resources of this new state, to its comparatively unknown botany, zoology, and geology, and claimed that the making known what the State was and could be made to be in these particulars was itself justification enough for the establishment of a university.

"It should also ever be remembered that the public sentiment that established the university was mainly created by young or comparatively young men. The early legislatures of the state were principally made up of such. These young men were exceptionally able and enterprising, and came here to help create a commonwealth when the effort meant personal risk, sacrifice, and toil of unusual severity. To reach Nebraska twenty years ago involved the crossing of Iowa in stage coaches through a sparsely settled region for half the distance, or a longer and more tortuous journey by boat from St. Louis. Many of the young men who came here at that early day have reached great distinction in the professions, in business, or in politics. I need only refer to Hon. J. M. Woolworth, A. J. Poppleton, E. S. Dundy, of the U. S. Court, C. Briggs, O. P. Mason, T. M. Marquett, and others who have won great distinction at the bar or on the bench, or both. Dr. George L. Miller, J. Sterling Morton, R. W. Furnas, J. M. McMurphy, Bishop Talbot, Lieut. Isaac T. Webster (now professor of military science in this university) and brother, and Professor Dake, of blessed memory, also came early, and the most of them at the first organization of the Territory. Ex-Senator Hitchcock, and the present U. S. senators, were also among the first settlers of the state. These then young men, and others to whom I can not even allude, who have since won great distinction, and possessed abilities and character to make them marked in any state, moulded this young commonwealth. The most of them have been, and still are, the warm friends and supporters of this university, and no better evidence of this can be given than the eloquent and able literary addresses with which they honored us on opening and on commencement occasions. Every lawyer and every judge knows that the statutes framed by the young men referred to in the early legislatures of the state, while yet a territory, are remarkably luminous and able compared with the laws which have been enacted in our later history."

"It has long since been observed that the best endowment of a university is the endowment of commanding and noble intellect and character. Such an endowment alone makes a university possible—makes it the center of intellectual light and quickening influence. With such characters this university was blessed in its early history. Whether it has fulfilled the promise of its youth it is not for me to say on this occasion. It is not, however improper to express the conviction that after years will recognize the fact that even now magnificent work is being done, work that will blossom into beauty and noble achievements. It is one of the infirmities of mankind that character often is not appreciated or understood until it is separated by distance or removed by death. I have myself even yet, after many disappointments, unbounded confidence in the final success of this institution. It is a creature and a child of the state and the age. The training already given here, the young men and women sent forth from these walls into the battle of life, the literary work, and scientific work done here, are an earnest of a glorious future. Students themselves, their character, their work, their attainments, their abilities acquired in the studies and literary contests of the university, along with that of the faculty, are a force that must lift this university in the order of nature into a prominence and a power for good, second to no other in the great republic."

In addition to its regular functions of higher education, various departments of the university have by legislative action been made official state departments in charge of the particular activity. Some of these are: the work of the Agricultural College in handling farmers' institutes; farm demonstrators; the agricultural extension bureau, which is the state department in charge of various county and local farm bureaus; state vocational education, as the teacher training school for the training of teachers for Smith-Hughes agricultural-vocational educational courses in high schools; home economics section of university extension service; the professor of entomology (Prof. Lawrence Bruner is the state entomologist in charge of the work of "investigation, control and extermination of insect pests and plant diseases"), and the professor of geology is the state geologist (Prof. E. H. Barbour), and George E. Condra is in charge of the work of the Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey, a department which has performed wonderful service in the various county and district "soil surveys" of Nebraska. The professor of botany is the state botanist, and the professor of that subject at the experiment station is the state plant pathologist. The Legislative Reference Bureau is another department of the university which has done invaluable work in collecting, compiling and publishing historical, legislative and legal data and information. This department has compiled the recent issues of the Nebraska Blue Book, and its head, Hon. Addison E. Sheldon, has not only compiled several smaller works on Nebraska history, but his "Annals of Nebraska" in the 1915 Blue Book is the pioneer presentation of Nebraska history in any systematic condensed, chronological style.

1869-1889. The majority of the higher educational institutions of the state were founded in the two decades following the elevation of Nebraska into statehood. It will only be possible to present the order of foundation of these institutions and to classify them by sources of support.

1872 (Doane College at Crete). This school was the successor of the school fostered by the Congregational people at Fontanelle. An Academy had been located at Crete in 1871, but this school started there in 1872 and has grown into an institution with an attendance of around two hundred, but a standing for scholastic quality surpassed by no school in the Middle West.

1874 (Creighton University). This is the second largest school in Nebraska and received its impetus from a provision in the will of Mr. Edward Creighton, and a later provision in the will of his wife, providing for the establishment of a school of the class and grade of a college in Omaha. The school was incorporated on August 14, 1879. It has grown to be a great university with not only the university courses, and academy, under the administration of the Jesuit Order, but great colleges for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and law. The medical department received the name of the "John A. Creighton Medical College," established in 1892, through the beneficence of "Count" John A. Creighton, brother of Edward Creighton. The Edward Creighton Institute became the home of the dentistry and law departments, until the recent erection of new buildings upon the main campus.

1880. Mr. Henry T. Clarke, then of Bellevue, gave to the Presbyterian people in 1880, 264 acres of land as a site for a college. The college was opened in 1883. This school is still a wonderfully efficient link in the chain of educational institutions of the state.

1881. The people of Hastings had tried as far back as 1874 to interest the

Presbyterian synods in the establishment of a college at that point. But even the acquisition of a school of that denomination by Bellevue, did not stop them and they continued their efforts until steps were taken in September, 1881, toward a Presbyterian academy at Hastings, which was incorporated as Hastings College, May 10, 1882. The education work began in September, 1882, and has continued without interruption for practically forty years.

1884. The Baptists of the state had been looking forward since their first convention in 1867 toward establishing an institution of learning. This desire took form in 1884 by the formation of a society, which accomplished the establishment of Grand Island College, and the same was opened in 1892, with thirty-two students in attendance. It has flourished spasmodically as the years have passed, and in 1920 is entering a new era in its existence, with the location of the Nebraska State Convention headquarters at Grand Island and a recentering of the efforts, financial and otherwise, of this denomination upon making this one of the great schools of the state.

1887. In this year the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society resolved to "receive and accept propositions" looking toward the incorporation of a Christian university. This resulted in the acquisition of some three hundred acres of land north of Lincoln, in the suburb of Bethany and the establishment of Cotner University there. The institution has grown to the point of having two colleges, liberal arts and medicine, of the latter of which Dr. Frank L. Wilmeth is president. Dr. William P. Aylsworth who served for more than fifteen years as chancellor of this institution was an important factor in its success.

This year (1887) saw the arrival of an institution of learning at University Place, another suburban town near Lincoln, destined to become one of the three or four largest in the state. The Methodist people had supported a college at York, Nebraska, since 1879, the York Seminary, opened in 1880. They also had a conference seminary at Central City, some forty miles distant, started in 1884. An institution called Mallalieu University had started at Bartley in 1886. A commission of five members from each conference and three from each school met at Lincoln late in 1886 and decided to center the efforts of this denomination upon a school located at a townsite laid out and named "University Place." This resulted in the foundation of Wesleyan University.

1890. Ground was broken in April, 1890, for another educational institution around Lincoln, with the location of Union College by the Seventh Day Adventists at College View.

NEBRASKA COLLEGES

Source of Support. The foregoing roster of Nebraska higher education institutions is by no means complete. But to make this subject more completely covered, even at the expense of some repetition, it may not be amiss to relist these schools and numerous other educational institutions by another method of classification.

SUPPORTED BY THE STATE

The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, already covered at more length than any other Nebraska school. The State Agricultural School of State University, at Lincoln; State Agricultural School, at Curtis; State Irrigation School and experi-

mental station, Scottsbluff; State Medical College and Hospital, Omaha; State experimental schools, Valentine and North Platte.

State Normal School at Peru. This was established by legislative act passed March 1, 1867, immediately after admission of the state to the Union. Col. T. J. Majors and William Daily were members of the Legislature and helped to fruition plans laid in Peru as early as 1865. It would not be amiss to pause long enough to pay passing tribute to the twelve men who have served at the head of an institution in existence for almost fifty-five years. J. M. McKenzie, 1867-1871; Henry H. Straight, 1871; A. D. Williams, 1871-72; Gen. T. J. Morgan, 1872-1875; L. S. Thompson, 1875-1877; Robert Curry, 1877-1883; George L. Farnam, 1883-1893; A. W. Norton, 1893-1896; J. A. Beattie, 1896-1900, who in recent years has been a prominent compiler of Nebraska history; W. A. Clark, 1900-1904; J. W. Crabtree, 1904-1910, and D. W. Hayes, since 1910.

State Normal School at Kearney. This school was established by the Legislature of 1903 to serve the western, central and southwestern parts of the state, which complained that Peru was too far east. More than ten towns sought this institution, but Kearney was the successful contestant. The first building was completed in December, 1905. Prof. A. O. Thomas later state superintendent of public instruction was president until 1914, when George S. Dick succeeded him, and G. H. Martin is now head of this school.

State Normal School at Wayne. This school was taken over by the state in 1910, after nineteen years' existence as a private normal school, under the management of President J. M. Pile. Prof. U. S. Conn, then superintendent of city schools of Columbus, was chosen by the State Normal Board and has continued as president of this school since its acquisition by the state.

State Normal School at Chadron. The Legislature of 1909, in addition to making the provision that resulted in acquiring the school at Wayne, provided for a similar state normal school in the northwestern part of the state, and Chadron was the successful contestant among the towns that sought that institution. An academy fostered by Congregational churches since 1888 laid the foundation for higher educational work at Chadron. Joseph Sparks was president of this school the first seven years after the state took it over, and Robert I. Elliott has served since 1916.

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

Of course, numerically, the vast majority of higher educational institutions in Nebraska have been established, fostered and sustained by the various religious denominations of the state.

Baptist. The great effort of this denomination has been centered upon Grand Island College, at Grand Island.

Catholic. The greatest effort of this church has been likewise centered upon Creighton University, at Omaha. These schools, which have been mentioned at more length earlier in this chapter, will not be so fully elaborated in this section. Of course the Catholic Church in Nebraska has built up and supported numerous other smaller educational institutions in Nebraska, in addition to a system of parochial graded and high schools which reaches almost all of the more important towns and villages of the state, where they have a very numerous membership.

Christian. The educational activities of this denomination have been mainly

devoted to two institutions, Cotner University at Bethany, near Lincoln, and its predecessor, Fairfield College at Fairfield, in Clay County. The latter school was opened in 1884 and flourished until after its support was switched over to Cotner.

Presbyterian. The comments already furnished concerning Bellevue College at Bellevue, and Hastings College at Hastings, show the early entrance into the educational work and their persistent, continuous application to the same, demonstrated by this church. In addition to these, the Omaha Seminary was opened in Kountze Place, Omaha, in 1902. This developed into the new University of Omaha, which was established in 1915 and is a growing, flourishing institution, continuing not only the seminary work, but full collegiate work, with a law college, and plans to branch into other professional lines when circumstances permit.

United Brethren. The work of this church in educational lines was begun at Gibbon in 1886, with the establishment of the Gibbon Collegiate Institute. This school was re-located at York in 1890, which city had not been satisfied since it had lost its original York College in 1886 upon the establishment of Wesleyan University at University Place. The new York College started in 1890, had continued in a gradual growth and steady improvement for twenty years, and is now one of the important smaller colleges of the state.

Danish Lutherans. Their work educationally in this state, started at Argo, Neb., in 1884, with a school for future ministers. This developed later into the Trinity Theological Seminary at Blair, the first school of its kind among Danish Lutherans in the United States, and eventually at Blair was built up Dana College, now the leading Danish college of this country.

Lutheran Church. The Lutheran Seminary at Seward was founded in 1894, despite the drought conditions then existing, and has grown and prospered ever since then. At Deshler, Thayer County, the Lutherans have build and maintain a splendid institution. The Lutheran High School and Business College, maintained by the Missouri Synod was built at Deshler in 1913. Luther College started at Wahoo in 1882, is a continuing institution.

Seventh Day Adventists. This church has Union College at College View, which has become the official educational institution for a territory embracing over twenty states of the Union and reaching into western Canada.

Methodist Episcopal Church. The great educational institution of this church in this state has become Wesleyan University at University Place, near Lincoln. Mention has heretofore been made of York College, started in 1879 and later abandoned for Wesleyan; Central City Seminary opened in 1884, and a school at Bartley.

Congregational. Doane College has been the central educational activity of this congregation. The early academy at Chadron has been mentioned. These people also in 1881 fostered the organization of an academy at Franklin, Neb. Weeping Water Academy was opened in 1885. A normal training school was maintained for some years for the Santee Indians.

Lutheran Schools. The Lutheran Church has maintained schools at Hebron and a number of towns not given above. In 1920 Fremont was successful in securing the removal from Atchison, Kan., of the very successful college, Midland College, built up by the Lutheran people. For many years the late W. H. Clemmons who was state superintendent of public instruction at the time of his death, conducted a very successful business and normal college at Fremont.

REMARKABLE SHOWING FOR PROUD NEBRASKA

By Eugene O. Mayfield

Fifty years ago one of my early duties was to roam over the long stretches of unbroken prairie of Nebraska, where in the valleys the tall bluestem grew luxuriantly and on the upland shimmered in the sunshine, buffalo grass, as far as the eye could see. Planted by the kindly hand of nature, blossomed millions of cacti, wild roses and other of the most beautiful flowers in the world, among which were scattered profusely clusters of the shoestring, with its entangled root-creepers, buffalo peas and bumble-bee nests with their hoard of honey for the winter days. Then as now, I thought it the most beautiful picture possible—but the picture has faded, to live only in the memory of the pioneers of the West.

Gathering into piles, to be hauled to the farm home, "buffalo chips," was my mission, as it was that of other pioneer lads, the dried droppings of the bison, blistered and cured by the sun, making splendid fuel for winter, and practically all of the fuel that the early pioneers could obtain, trees growing only along the streams.

But fifty odd years have brought great changes. The breaking plow, often drawn by slow-moving oxen, has worked a transformation in the West unbelievable or undreamed of fifty years ago. Today there is but little prairie land, except along the western border, it having dissolved into cultivated farms on which are homes that equal, if not surpass, the best in the great union of states, thousands being modern throughout.

Pioneer Hardships. First came the hardships of the pioneers—some of whom remained while some went back to the old home in the East after deciding that the new West was only a desert. Then brighter days came, but only after a long pull against the tide—too, came as time passed, years of hot winds from the southwest that scorched to tinder even the wild grass; grasshoppers that ate up everything down to the earth; shivering cold winters and mountains of icy sleet and snow; storms of wind and rain and hail that laid low the growing crops of sod-corn and small grain.

But Nebraska's hardy pioneers weathered all of these handicaps. They had faith, unbounded, and in the end they won where weaker hearts would have failed and now, from north to south, east to west, one may travel to the confines of the state and see a vast garden and a happy, prosperous people—cities, towns, hamlets; schools, churches and a world of patriotic pride, where fifty years ago were only huts and scattered settlements.

Nebraska is rich in everything one could wish. Its people more fortunate than others, have but few calls to assist the indigent. There are ninety-three counties in the state, with a total population (as near as can be arrived at without the official government census report) of 1,295,502. These figures are based on an increase of 10 per cent during the past ten years, the population of 1910 being 1,192,214. In forty of the counties are no indigent or county poor farms. In fifty-three counties there are poor farms and indigent cared for on the farms, of which 355 are males and ninety-seven females, making a total of but 452 persons entirely kept by all the counties of a state having a population of 1,311,435. A remarkable showing, indeed—one that challenges any other state.

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Homes of the Poor. These fifty-three counties having poor farms and indigent cared for on them consist of 10,175 acres, cultivated by the counties, or leased for agriculture or hayland and grazing. The valuation placed on this land by the officials is \$2,153,300.

In addition to those cared for on county poor farms the various counties of the state assist in their homes a total of but fifty-three male and female partially indigent, they being supplied from special funds available for that purpose.

Many of the county poor farms have great, roomy homes on them, modernized and beautiful lawns, orchards and flowers.

That each county may have the benefit of its showing, following will be found an authentic report which I have just completed, the facts and figures being taken from the county records—from records that did not exist except in rare instances, during the days when “buffalo chips” were at a premium.

Remarkable Showings. Holt County has no county poor farm or building. When there are indigent that require assistance they are assisted from the general fund. O'Neill is the county seat.

Hitchcock County has no poor farm or building. There are no indigent in that county. The county seat is at Trenton.

Pawnee County has no poor farm. At present ten persons are being assisted from the general fund, four males and six females. The county seat is Pawnee City.

Gage County has a 160-acre poor farm, where nine males and three females are cared for. The farm is valued at \$30,000. Beatrice is the county seat.

Wayne County has no poor farm and only one person assisted in the way of paying a part of the house rent. Wayne is the county seat.

Perkins County has a \$12,000 poor farm of 160 acres, but it is not improved. There are about a dozen persons taken care of, in part or in full, in the county. Grant is the county seat.

Chase County has no poor farm or home and no indigent requiring assistance. Imperial is the county seat.

Grant County has no poor farm and only one person, male, who is assisted from time to time as requirements demand. Hyannis is the county seat.

Box Butte County, with Alliance the county seat, has a 320-acre poor farm, on which is a nine-room brick building. Three males are cared for on the farm, the value of which is \$18,000.

Rock County has no poor farm or building. There are only two indigent that the county pays \$16 per month for their keep in private families. Bassett is the county seat.

Furnas County hasn't any indigent. However, it has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$15,000. The county seat is Beaver City.

Morrill County has no poor farm and no indigent. Bridgeport is the county seat.

Gosper County has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$12,800, but no one to occupy it, as there are no indigent in that county. Ellwood is the county seat.

Saunders County, Wahoo county seat, has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$96,000, on which are cared for ten males and two females.

Polk County, Osceola county seat, has a 200-acre poor farm, where are cared for two males and one female. The farm is valued at \$45,000.

Boone County, Albion county seat, has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000.

The farm is rented out and the four female indigent are cared for, in part, by the county supplying them foodstuffs in their own homes.

Hall County, Grand Island county seat, has six indigent, five male and one female, who are cared for in a hospital, and the farm rented out, which consists of 160 acres, valued at \$20,000.

Nuckolls County, Nelson county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$16,000.

Boyd County, Butte county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm. There are four women receiving the mothers' pension.

Out at Broken Bow. Custer County, Broken Bow county seat, has a 400-acre poor farm, on which there is a twenty-two-room house, modern throughout, including barns and other buildings, all lighted with electricity from a plant located on the farm. There are five males and two females on the farm. The place is stocked with eight head of horses, twenty head of cattle, nine of which are milked, and eighty-five hogs. There was planted in crops this season 200 acres of corn, sixty acres of wheat, eighty acres of oats and fifteen acres of alfalfa. There are fifteen acres of wild hay, the remainder of the farm being pasture. This modern "poor" farm is valued at \$100,000. It is in charge of a superintendent, matron, maid for house work and needed farm hands.

Sioux County, Harrison the county seat, has but one indigent male who is cared for by the county. The poor farm consists of but one town lot and building, valued at \$1,000.

Thomas County, Hereford the county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm.

Blaine County, Dunning the county seat, has neither poor farm nor need for one. Only one person receives assistance as needed.

Howard County, St. Paul the county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, worth \$12,000.

Jefferson County has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. It cares for seven male inmates. Fairbury is the county seat.

Cuming County, West Point the county seat, has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$64,000. Three male indigent are cared for.

Cheyenne County, of which Sidney is the county seat, has no poor farm and no need for one. No person there is receiving aid directly or indirectly from the county. There is no mothers' pension at present in force. Cheyenne County is said to be the first in the world in the production of wheat, and in many other things ranks near the top notch.

Wheeler County has no poor farm and no indigent. Bartlett is the county seat.

Frontier County has no poor farm. There two indigent, kept by private parties and assisted by the county. Stickville is the county seat.

Richardson County has twelve indigent, ten male and two female. It has a county farm of 120 acres, valued at \$4,000. Falls City is the county seat.

Lincoln County has two male indigent and three females. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$75,000. North Platte is the county seat.

Buffalo County has four male indigent. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000. Kearney is the county seat.

Only One in Banner. Banner County has but one indigent, male, kept at a hospital. It has no county farm. Harrisburg is the county seat.

Burt has four male indigent and a 200-acre county farm, valued at \$60,000. Tekamah is the county seat.

York has five indigent, four males and one female. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$50,000. York is the county seat.

Cass County has fourteen indigent, twelve males and two females. It has a 120-acre county farm, valued at \$60,000. Plattsmouth is the county seat. The home is modern and roomy.

Greeley County has no county farm and but one indigent person, who is cared for in a hospital. Greeley is the county seat.

Scotts Bluff County has no poor farm or building. Whenever there is need of assistance the county takes care of the cases by pension, or pays for their keep in private homes. Scottsbluff is the county seat.

McPherson County has six partially indigent, three males and three females. This is one family which is only assisted, and is partially self-supporting. It has no poor farm. Tryon is the county seat.

Clay County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre county farm, valued at \$40,000. Clay Center is the county seat.

Adams County has four male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$60,000. Hastings is the county seat.

Sheridan county has neither county poor farm nor indigent. Rushville is the county seat, and Maud E. Gillispie is the county clerk.

Brown County has no county poor farm or indigent. When occasion demands the poor are assisted by the county. Ainsworth is the county seat.

Loup County, Taylor the county seat, has no poor farm and no use for one, no indigent living in that county.

Hayes County has neither indigent nor county poor farm. Hayes Center is the county seat.

Knox Has None. Knox County has no county poor farm and no indigent. Center is the county seat.

Nemaha County has seven indigent, six males and one female. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000. Auburn is the county seat.

Sarpy County has two male indigent. It has a 60-acre poor farm, valued at \$48,000. The indigent now being cared for have only been on the farm one year. Prior to that there were none for several years. Papillion is the county seat.

Pierce County has two indigent, males. It has a 200-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. Pierce is the county seat.

Stanton County has two male indigent and a 20-acre poor farm, valued at \$12,000. Stanton is the county seat.

Keya Paha County has no county poor farm and but one indigent person, male, whom the county assists. He is the first in a number of years. Springview is the county seat.

Valley County has no indigent. It has a 125-acre poor farm, valued at \$18,000. Ord is the county seat.

Lancaster County has twenty-three indigent, twelve males and eleven females. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$75,000. On the farm is a large fireproof modern building that cost \$27,000 four years ago. Lincoln is the county seat.

Merrick County has three indigent, two males and one female, cared for in a

hospital. Central City is the county seat. It has a county farm of 160 acres, valued at \$15,000.

Seward County has four male and one female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. Seward is the county seat.

Sherman County has one male indigent and three mothers' pension cases. It owns, but rents out, a 320-acre farm, valued at \$60,000. Loup City is the county seat.

Garfield County has no poor farm and no indigent. Burwell is the county seat.

Dundy in the Clear. Dundy County has neither county poor farm nor county indigent. Benkelman is the county seat.

Antelope County has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$20,000. Neligh is the county seat.

Red Willow County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 40-acre poor farm, valued at \$15,000. McCook is the county seat.

Platte County has five male indigent. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$85,000. Columbus is the county seat.

Saline County has two male and three female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$80,000. Wilber is the county seat.

Kearney County has neither poor farm nor county indigent. Minden is the county seat.

Otoe County has twelve indigent, ten males and two females. It has one of the most modern county farms in the state, consisting of 160 acres, valued at \$50,000. Nebraska City is the county seat.

Douglas County has 205 indigent, cared for at the county farm, thirty-nine females and 166 males. It has a 40-acre poor farm, modern, valued at \$120,000. Omaha is the county seat.

Dawson County has one male indigent and a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$32,000. Lexington is the county seat.

Johnson County has two indigent, males, and a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000. Tecumseh is the county seat.

Nance County has no county poor farm and no indigent. Occasionally it is necessary to assist the poor, which is done through a county fund. Fullerton is the county seat.

Butler County has three male and one female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$44,000. David City is the county seat.

Webster County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000. Red Cloud is the county seat.

Only a Pension Here. Phelps County has no poor farm and no direct indigent—only one aged male who draws \$12 a month. A few widows draw the mothers' pension. Holdrege is the county seat.

Keith County has one female indigent, who is cared for by the county in a private home. It has a five-acre poor farm, valued at \$2,500. Ogallala is the county seat.

Kimball County has no poor farm or indigent. Kimball is the county seat.

Garden County has no county poor farm or indigent. Oshkosh is the county seat.

Deuel County has neither poor farm nor indigent. Chappell is the county seat.

Thurston County has five indigent that are cared for. It has no county poor farm. Pender is the county seat.

Dodge County has ten indigent, eight males and two females. It has a 245-acre poor farm, valued at \$85,000. Fremont is the county seat.

Fillmore County, Geneva county seat, has eleven indigent, eight males and three females. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000.

Nothing Doing in Harlan. Harlan County has neither poor farm nor indigent. Alma is the county seat.

Colfax County has three male and two female indigent. It has a 160-acre county farm, valued at \$56,000. Schuyler is the county seat.

Logan County has no indigent. It has a building used when necessary for the indigent, worth about \$500. Gandy is the county seat.

Dakota County has three male indigent and an 80-acre poor farm, valued at \$20,000. Dakota City is the county seat.

Cedar County, Harrington county seat, has five male indigent, and a county poor farm of 160 acres, valued at \$28,000.

Thayer County, Hebron county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre county farm, valued at \$12,000.

Hooker County, Mullen county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm.

Dawes County, Chadron the county seat, has four male indigent and a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$5,000.

Arthur County has no indigent and no county poor farm. Arthur is the county seat.

Hamilton County has a 240-acre poor farm, on which there are three male and three female indigent. The farm is valued at \$50,000. The county seat is Aurora.

Cherry County has neither county charges nor poor farm. The county seat is Valentine.

Franklin County has a 320-acre poor farm. It has no indigent. The farm is valued at \$64,000. Franklin is the county seat.

Madison County has two male and three female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$25,000. Madison is the county seat.

Dixon County has two male indigent at the poor farm, which consists of 160 acres and is valued at \$35,000. Ponca is the county seat.

Washington County, Blair county seat, has three male indigent on its 160-acre poor farm. The farm is valued at \$12,800.

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CHAPTER X

THE PRESS OF NEBRASKA

THE NEBRASKA PALLADIUM —THE OMAHA ARROW—THE NEBRASKIAN THE NEBRASKA NEWS —THE BROWNVILLE ADVERTISER THE OMAHA TIMES EARLY PAPERS BY COUNTIES (taking about first seventy counties in alphabetical order)—NEBRASKA NEWSPAPERS OF TODAY—NEWSPAPERS IN 1920.

The press is the true exponent of the public pulse, and a true index of the character of the people that support it, and in view of that fact it is the intention of this compiler, while he cannot devote an adequate time and space in this work, to give each subject a thorough and elaborate treatment, to dwell at some length upon the history and development of the press of Nebraska.

A vivid portrayal of the rapidity with which the newspaper office followed the first settlers into each community, and the difficulties with which it remained, as evidence by the frequency with which the "voice of the community" personified in its town journal was changed, will probably more than any other thing illustrate the evolution of our great commonwealth.

The details of the struggles of the first few newspapers started in this state have been so well presented in the Andreas' History of Nebraska, 1882, that it is only giving just credit and tribute to that excellent work to reproduce here the story as it was told then, when the compiler of that record could yet get in touch with the living pioneers of the Nebraska press.

THE NEBRASKA PALLADIUM

The first newspaper published in Bellevue was also the first paper in the state. This early candidate for public favor was the Nebraska Palladium, which, after issuing fifteen numbers at St. Mary's on the Iowa shore, opposite Bellevue, crossed to the latter place, and then issued No. 16. The full title of the newcomer was the Nebraska Palladium and Platte Valley Advocate. It was published by Thomas Morton, D. E. Reed & Company, editors and proprietors. The first number contained two poems, one of which was "The Seer," by Whittier; a New York letter; a chapter on females, and an extract from the "Reveries of a Bachelor." There were also articles entitled "Newspapers," "Support Your Local Paper," "The Newspaper Press," "Know-Nothing." There was also an article on the "Location of the Capital," and a notice of "Bellevue Claim Meeting." On the first column of the last page is the following announcement: "This is the first column of reading matter set up in the Territory of Nebraska. This was put in type on the 14th of November, 1854, by Thomas Morton." There were also several local advertisements or paid reading notices. Thus we see that: "I. H. Bennett has opened a

boarding house at Bellevue for the accommodation of regular boarders and occasional visitors, who he will take pleasure in making as comfortable as lies in his power." This is followed by an advertisement of "W. R. English, collector, general land agent, counselor at law, etc., Bellevue, Neb. Having an experience of seventeen years in the Territory, will pay prompt attention to all communications in regard to the Territory, etc. Office near the Government building, and in rear of P. A. Sarpy's banking house." This first issue also contained advertisements of C. E. Watson, land agent and surveyor, and of Peter A. Sarpy's ferry boat, Nebraska, running between St. Mary's and Bellevue, and St. Mary's, Council Bluffs and Glenwood advertisements.

On the second page in an editorial entitled "The Newspaper Press in Bellevue," occurs the following passage: "The Palladium office was the first newspaper establishment put in operation in Nebraska, and the present number, the first ever issued from the Territory. The first printers in our office and who have set up the present number are natives of three different states—Ohio, Virginia and Massachusetts, namely: Thomas Morton, foreman, Columbus, Ohio; A. D. Long, compositor, Virginia; Henry M. Reed, apprentice, Massachusetts.

"At the very time our foreman had the press ready for operation, the following persons were—not by invitation—but providentially present, to witness its first operation, namely:

"His Excellency, T. B. Cuming, governor of Nebraska, and Mrs. T. B. Cuming; Hon. Fenner Ferguson, chief justice of Nebraska; Mrs. F. Ferguson; Rev. William Hamilton, of the Otoe and Omaha Mission, and Mrs. Hamilton; Maj. James M. Gatewood, of Missouri; Bird B. Chapman, candidate for congress from Nebraska Territory; George W. Hollister, Esq., of Bellevue; A. Vandergrift, Esq., of Missouri; W. A. Griffin, of Bellevue; Arthur Ferguson, of Bellevue; Theodore S. Gillmore, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mary Hamilton and Miss Amanda Hamilton, of Bellevue. The first proof sheet was taken by His Excellency, Governor Cuming, which was taken from the press and read by his Honor, Chief Justice Ferguson.

"Thus quietly and unceremoniously was the birth time of printing in Bellevue, Neb., celebrated. Thus was the Nebraska Palladium inaugurated into the public service. This event, although to some it may seem unimportant now, will form an epoch in history which will be remembered ages after those present on this interesting occasion are no more.

"The Palladium is issued from Bellevue, a beautiful spot amid the far off wilds of Nebraska, issued in the very wake of heathen darkness, and we might almost say in its midst. We have taken joint possession with the aboriginal occupants of the soil. Our office is frequently visited by the dark children of the forest and prairie, whose curiosity prompts them to witness the operation of the—to them—incomprehensible art by which thought is symbolized and repeated in ever-during forms on the printed page. As the Indian disappears before the light of civilization, so may the darkness and error of the human mind flee before the light of the press of Nebraska."

On April 11, 1855, the Palladium discontinued publication and issued the following pungent manifesto of the cause of such action: "To subscribers and friends: We have against our own desires and that of many ardent friends made up our mind to suspend the issue of the Palladium until a sufficient amount of town pride springs up in Bellevue to pay the expense of its publication."

THE GAZETTE

The Bellevue Gazette, a six-column folio was started in 1856 by Silas A. Strickland & Co., the company including David Leach and others. This ambitious sheet seemed, like its jovial and well known editor, to desire to please everybody. In its first number it unburdens itself of its intentions in a salutatory, promising the publication of all the newest inventions for the benefit of the mechanic; of the latest news from St. Louis papers, and of letters from the farmers. In the same issue are set forth the excellencies of the Bellevue House, and the readiness of various individuals to barter goods for cash or land for either. There is also a brotherly pat on the back for the Nebraska Democrat, then a novelty in Omaha journalism, published by H. T. Johnson. The Gazette was short lived.

THE PLATTE VALLEY TIMES

The Platte Valley Times was started on July 31, 1862, by H. T. Clarke & Co. The Times was a five-column folio, and contained besides full accounts of the war, then raging, notices of favorite packets bound up or down the river, and also a poem by "Professor" Longfellow. This was the last attempt to establish a local paper in the town, and the new comer shared very shortly the fate of its older brethren.

The second newspaper to start in Nebraska was at Omaha.

The first paper established in Omaha was the Arrow, printed at Council Bluffs, followed by the Nebraskian, the Times, the Telegraph, the Independent, Republican, Statesman, Herald, Tribune, Bee, News and Telegram. The growth of the press in Omaha is a symbol and measure of the growth of the state. When the first number of the Arrow was issued there was but a limited number within the present limits of Nebraska, and those were largely composed of Indians, traders, etc. There was no telegraph in those days in this region and no railroad, and if the members of the Fourth Estate then prominent, now dead, could rise from their graves they would be astonished at the changes which have been accomplished in the system of artificial communication by rail and telegraph, considered merely as an apparatus for the collection and distribution of news.

THE ARROW

The first paper published at Omaha was the Arrow, a folio of twenty-four columns and bearing date "Friday, November 28, 1854," with J. E. Johnson and John W. Pattison, as editors and proprietors. It was a weekly and furnished to subscribers at the rate of two dollars per annum, invariably in advance, and aimed to supply "a family paper devoted to the arts and sciences, general literature, agriculture and politics, to the people—sovereigns of the soil."

The prominent feature of the first issue was the Kansas and Nebraska bill, as it passed both houses of Congress, supplemented by editorial notices, an account of an excursion to Bellevue, town sites in Nebraska, plan of Omaha City and the usual complement of editorial and local paragraphs. The advertisements included notifications that "A. W. Babbitt, Street & Turley, James D. Test, Johnson & Casady, C. E. Stone, A. C. Ford, A. V. Larimer, W. C. James, and L. M. Kline, were practitioners domiciliated in Council Bluffs; J. W. Pattison was similarly estab-

lished in Omaha, and others at different points throughout the West. "The Council Bluffs and Nebraska ferry was ready with their new steam ferry boat Marion, to commence crossing at the opening of spring"; proceedings of a claim meeting, and a large amount of advertising, principally confined to patrons residing in Council Bluffs. For a time, or until presses and fixtures arrived, the Arrow was printed at the office of the Bugle in Council Bluffs, and the announcement was made that any "person who within one year from date should send the largest list of subscribers to the Arrow would be entitled to a full Omaha Indian costume to be subject, upon decision, to their order."

The paper presented a neat appearance and for its first issue, considering the obstacles in the way of publishing a journal at all to be compared to those of the present day, dearth of news, etc., was a most creditable production that improved with each succeeding issue. Among the items of interest that appeared subsequently, were the following notices:

There will be preaching at the residence of Mr. Snowdon, in Omaha City, on Sunday the 13th of August, 1854, by the Rev. Peter Cooper of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. D. Jones, Esq., has obtained his surveying instruments and now stands ready to do any job in his line when called upon. Persons desirous of purchasing town lots can be accommodated by calling on Dr. J. Lowe or J. A. Jackson. M. W. Robinson has put on a regular line of stages between this place and Council Bluffs; persons visiting this place from Council Bluffs and desirous of returning must be at the ferry landing upon sun down. Persons may receive Omaha City mail matter from the postmaster, A. D. Jones, at Mr. Clancy's provision establishment every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, etc.

On October 13, 1854, the death of William R. Rogers, aged fifty-four years, is announced, and in the issue of the following week that of Francis Burt, governor of the Territory, followed by the proceedings of a meeting convened to take proper action in this connection at which D. Lindley presided, M. Murphy appointed as secretary and J. W. Pattison, C. B. Smith, A. D. Jones, W. Clancy and C. H. Downs were appointed a committee on resolutions.

On November 3, 1854, pleasure was expressed at seeing the sign of Dr. G. L. Miller, the present distinguished editor of the Herald, hanging out of Mr. E. Buddell's residence. The city was congratulated upon the acquisition.

The paper continued for some months but failure to obtain presses, office equipments, etc., prevented its removal to Omaha as was anticipated, and culminated in its suspension before the expiration of the year during which it was born.

THE NEBRASKIAN

In 1854, Bird B. Chapman, of Elyria, Ohio, established the Nebraskian at Omaha, in a frame building on Farnam Street, near Fourteenth. Having put his house in order, with a view to future rewards, he began the weekly "grind" as editor. As days came and went, his prospects, from a political standpoint, grew brighter, until the dawn of a perfect day, upon which he was elected as a delegate to Congress from the infant Territory. John Sherman, the editor, was left in charge of the paper, while Mr. Chapman went to the front, and in 1857, Theodore H. Robertson

assumed the ownership. Two years later, M. H. Clark succeeded to the title, and secured the services of Milton W. Reynolds as editor.

During this administration, a daily paper was established, and was run through about three volumes, but the absence of data prevents the presentation of a more extended notice of the same.

In all respects, the *Nebraskian* is represented to have been a credit to its founders, its publishers, its patrons and Omaha City. It labored for the interests of its constituency, and those of the Territory, and did much toward the development of the business interests of the city, the county and the present state. In politics, it was democratic, insisting that the doctrine of that party was not heresy, and that the glories gathered into the national garner for fifty years, were substantial and lasting testimonials of the vitality and correctness of the principles originally propounded by Thomas Jefferson.

On December 18, 1863, Clark & Reynolds sold out to Alfred H. Jackson, until June 15, 1865, when the *Nebraskian*, aged, but aspiring and determined, yielded precedence to the *Herald*, which has since grown to be a power among the democratic organs of the country, and a journal that is by no means the least convincing proof to prosperous Omaha, and the Northwest, of the dependence upon the Fourth Estate, that cities and countries in their success rely.

The occasion is here availed of to deny, on the authority of Doctor Miller, that the *Nebraskian* was "merged into the *Herald*, or that the *Herald* was recreated out of the ruins of the *Nebraskian*." All such rumors are figments of imagination undeserving of consideration.

While the *Palladium* and *Arrow* and *Nebraskian* were short lived, another newspaper was moved into Nebraska from Sidney, Iowa, in 1854, destined later to become the *Nebraska News*.

THE NEBRASKA CITY NEWS

The printing material with which the *Nebraska City News* was published, was purchased in Sidney, Iowa, by S. F. Nuckolls, H. F. Downs and A. A. Bradford, owners of the town site, the press work of the first number being done in that place, November 14, 1854, with Dr. Henry Bradford as editor. The office was immediately removed to Nebraska City and placed in the old block house, where it remained for some years. In 1855 Thomas Morton purchased the outfit from the town company, J. Sterling Morton being at that time editor, receiving for his services fifty dollars a month. Subsequent editorial changes have been as follows: R. Lee Barrowman, April 13, 1856, to April 15, 1856; J. Sterling Morton, April 15, 1856, to August 26, 1857; M. W. Reynolds, August 26, 1857, to October 19, 1861; Augustus F. Harvey, October 19, 1861, to August 25, 1865; J. Sterling Morton, August 25, 1865, to August 20, 1877; J. Stilson Potter, August 20, 1877, to November 1, 1879; E. D. Marnell, November 1, 1879, to date. The proprietorship has been wholly or in part vested in Thomas Morton ever since his first purchase of the paper. The editorial management has been remarkably able and the paper is now a daily and weekly sheet, democratic in politics from the first. During the Kansas war of 1857, its utterances were decisive, so far so that its office was threatened with destruction and its editor with lynching by Lane and his lawless associates.

This Nebraska News remained the leading journal of the state until outstripped by the Republican and Herald of Omaha. After its change to the name of Nebraska City News in 1858, it continued to serve its public, and it has had an existence of over sixty-five years, the longest record in the state for continuous service, were it not broken by one slight interruption.

The next newspaper to start was the

BROWNVILLE ADVERTISER

In the autumn of 1855, Dr. John McPherson came to Brownville, and, pleased with the town and its prospects, determined to remove his printing material from Tippecanoe, Ohio, for the purpose of engaging in the newspaper business. He traded one-half his establishment to R. Brown for Brownville town lots, stipulating to publish a weekly newspaper one year. On the 9th of April, 1856, Robert W. Furnas, who was to have editorial charge of the office, John L. Colhapp and Chester S. Langdon, printers, arrived with the material, and on the seventh day of June, 1856, appeared the first number of the Nebraska Advertiser. From that time to the present the paper has been regularly issued. One of the earliest contributors to the columns of the Advertiser was Dr. A. S. Holladay, who occasionally occupied the editorial chair during the absence of Mr. Furnas. Soon after the publication of the first number of the Advertiser, Doctor McPherson donated his one-half interest in the office to R. W. Furnas, on condition that it should be published as an independent or neutral journal. The restriction was rigidly observed. At that time the territory was strongly democratic. The office was opened in Lake's Block, on Second, between Main and College streets; was afterward removed to McPherson's Block, on the south side of Main between Second and Third streets; at a still later day, to the north side of Main, between First and Second streets.

October 2, 1857, Chester S. Langdon was admitted as a publisher, making the firm Furnas & Langdon. On the 15th of May, 1858, R. W. Furnas assumed control again, and continued in entire charge until November 24, 1859, when L. E. Lyanna became a partner. On the 28th of November, 1861, the Union office was consolidated with the Advertiser, and T. R. Fisher was taken in as a partner. May 8, 1862, Furnas & Fisher were proprietors, with Fisher & Hacker as publishers. [R. W. Furnas had enlisted and gone to the war, as colonel of a Nebraska Regiment.] December 6, 1862, T. C. Hacker withdrew from the office as one of the publishers. July 16, 1863, the names of proprietors of the paper were dropped, only the name of T. R. Fisher appearing as the publisher. In the autumn of 1863, Fisher & Colhapp (the last named came with office to Brownville in 1856), became publishers. September 14, 1864, W. H. Miller became the publisher, and was succeeded December 22, 1864, by George W. Hill and J. H. Colhapp. July 18, 1867, R. V. Muir entered the firm. November 17th of the same year, Jarvis S. Church bought the interest of Hill & Muir, and the firm name became Church & Colhapp. January 23, 1868, T. C. Hacker entered the firm as junior partner and business manager. January 6, 1870, the original publisher, R. W. Furnas, bought out Church, and the firm name became Furnas, Colhapp & Hacker. January 5, 1871, Church & Hacker became the publishers, and July of the same year, Major Caffrey purchased Church's interest, and the firm name became Caffrey & Hacker. This firm remained unchanged until January 22, 1874, when G. W. Fairbrother bought out Major

Caffrey, and the firm of Fairbrother & Hacker continued until December, 1881, when G. W. Fairbrother became sole proprietor. In March, 1882, the material was removed to Calvert, where under the same name, the Advertiser continues to be published. It is now published by G. W. Fairbrother & Co. The Advertiser is republican in politics, and has been so since 1860.

For a few weeks in 1857, a small daily sheet named the Snort, was issued from the Advertiser office, under the editorial supervision of Langdon & Goff. "Old rye" was a legal tender in payment of subscriptions. A score of issues was enough to send the little paper to "the tomb of the Capulets."

In September, 1860, a four-column daily paper, entitled the Bulletin, was issued from the Advertiser office, but proving unremunerative, was suspended in August, 1861.

In 1870, a campaign Daily Advertiser was published for a few months.

The first agricultural journal in the state was established in Brownville, in January, 1859, by R. W. Furnas, and its publication continued three years.

THE TIMES

was established in Omaha, June 11, 1857, by W. W. Wyman, and courted popular favor with the assurance that it was

Pledged but to truth, to liberty and law,
No favor sways us, and no fear shall awe.

It was an eight-column folio, and aimed to furnish to readers a weekly résumé of news, foreign and domestic. Its office was over the postoffice, where it was issued every Thursday, and presumably met public expectations. In politics, it was democratic, but in this particular, as in all others, that would remotely contribute to the development of Nebraska, and the prosperity of the territory, the editors left nothing to be desired. Information was at all times furnished by them to inquirers, and a portion of each issue was devoted to answers to those seeking information relative to lands, markets and other features of frontier life, with which residents at a distance are entirely unfamiliar.

On September 9, 1858, John W. Pattison was admitted as a partner in the concern, and undertook the general conduct of the paper. He was a graphic and forcible writer, long and favorably known throughout the territory, of which he was an old settler, and his co-operation was an invaluable aid to the benefit and prosperity of the Times. He remained, however, but two months, circumstances prevailing to prevent that devotion of time and attention to the paper which was demanded, he severed his connection therewith. The Times, however, survived. Its editorials indicated marked ability, and were couched in candid, courteous language. In addition, the pages contained a choice selection of miscellaneous matter, full and accurate market reports, and a carefully prepared summary of congressional, local and foreign intelligence. In 1859, the Times was merged into the Nebraskian, and on February 26, 1864, with the type and press formerly employed in the composition and publication of the Times, was the obituary of Mr. Wyman promulgated in the Nebraskian.

So truly is the story of the press that of civilization. Its history is that of

the locality in which it is situated. It has made and unmade parties, established and destroyed reputations. It has served as the antiquarian, the historian and the prophet. Day by day it has recorded the history of the state, or allowed, by omission, valuable records to perish. While space will not permit us to take each and every newspaper that has graced the history of Nebraska journalism and trace its rise and fall, its beginning and end, we can at least most certainly afford to stop and review the beginnings of the press in about seventy of the first settled counties of the state, and then take a retrospective view from 1920 of the papers existing after the Nebraska press has had three-quarters of a century life, and note the years of their establishment, and be able to compare the advance by a study of the beginning of this profession—the history of histories—and its present stage of progress.

Adams County. The first paper in this county was the Adams County Gazette, started January, 1872, by C. C. and R. D. Babcock. In 1880 it was removed to Hastings and became part of the Gazette-Journal, which had been started there in 1873 by the Wigtons. The Juniata Herald was started in 1876 by A. H. Brown, and has been that town's paper these many years. The Hastings Central Nebraskan started in 1876, and the Adams County Democrat in 1880. Kenesaw had a paper in 1876, The Times, which later became part of the Central Nebraskan, at Hastings.

Antelope County. The Oakdale Journal, established in 1874, became the Neligh Journal in October, 1875. The Neligh Independent was the second paper there in 1878.

Boone County. The first paper published in Boone County was the Boone County News, in 1874, lasting about six months. The Boone County Argus, started in 1876, "for Boone County first—the world afterward," with W. A. Hutton as editor and publisher. A. W. Ladd started in 1879 the Boone County News, in no way related to its predecessor.

Burt County. Tekamah's first newspaper was the Burt County Pilot, in 1871, later moved to Blair in 1874. The next, in 1872, was the Burtonian. Oakland Independent was established in 1880, the Decatur Herald in 1881.

Buffalo County. This county can claim the Huntsman's Echo, in 1860, founded by Joseph E. Johnson at Wood River Center. The Central Nebraska Press, at Kearney, was founded in 1873. The Kearney Times was started in 1873, and its outgrowth, the Buffalo County Journal, started in 1880. The Kearney Weekly Noupareil started in 1878. These have all been superseded by later papers. Kearney, in 1882, had the National Soldier, a paper established for veterans of the Civil war.

Butler County. The first papers at David City were the Butler County Press, started in September, 1873, by W. G. Rutherford and Charles D. Casper, and the David City Republican, issued first by Calmer D. McCune, February 6, 1877. Ulysses' first paper, the Dispatch, started May 6, 1880. Rising City Independent started September 17, 1880, by D. O. and C. E. Verity.

Cass County. This county, one of the first in the state settled, presents some of the pioneer journals of the state to this roster of early newspapers. The Plattsmouth Jeffersonian, the first paper in Plattsmouth, started early in 1857, with L. D. Jefferis, assisted by J. D. Ingalls. The Platte Valley Times, of Pacific Junction, Iowa, was removed in 1858 to Plattsmouth and came out as the Platte Valley Herald. In 1859 the Cass County Sentinel came forth, published first at Rock Bluffs, and later taken by E. Giles, its editor, to Plattsmouth. The Nebraska

Herald was started in February, 1865. Another Cass County Sentinel started in 1870. A German weekly, the *Deutsche Wacht*, started in 1875; in 1877, a newspaper outfit was moved from Sarpy Center to Plattsmouth, and the Cass County Chronicle started in 1878. H. M. Bushnell in recent years until his death within the past year, published the Lincoln Trade Review, started in with this paper, and in 1879 started the daily Enterprise at Plattsmouth. The Plattsmouth Journal, as a daily, began in 1881. The extended account of the press of this county serves to illustrate the manner in which many papers have come and gone in the older counties.

Cedar County. St. Helena had a paper, the Cedar County Advocate, in 1874, which later moved to Vermilion, Dakota. The Cedar County Bulletin started in 1875, and changed to the Cedar County Nonpareil.

Cheyenne County. The first paper in this county was the Sidney Telegraph, the first number of which was issued in May, 1873, by L. Cornell, it being a four-column folio sheet, and being practically the pioneer of the western end of the state.

Clay County. The first paper in Sutton was the Times, June 20, 1873. This paper was started by Wellman & Brackman, later owned by Wellman Bros., and then Frank E. Wellman, brother of the Walter Wellman, of Chicago Record-Herald fame of fifteen years or so ago, on the polar expedition. The Clay County Herald, starting June 21, 1873, and Clay County Globe, 1875, were other early ventures at Sutton and the Sutton Register started in 1880. Edgar had a paper in 1875 for a short time, and the Leader started there in 1877. The Fairfield News started in 1877. Harvard started a series of unsuccessful attempts, with the Leader, in 1873, running later to attempts to start the Advocate, the Sentinel and the Journal. Clay Center made a journalistic attempt in 1881, with the Citizen.

Colfax County. The first paper in Schuyler appeared as the Register, on September 30, 1871, but soon came out as the Schuyler Sun, which has continued to "shine" for a long time. The next attempt was the Schuyler Democrat, in 1878, which later became the Herald, when James A. Grimison took it over.

Cuming County. The West Point Republican was established November 18, 1870; the Progress in August, 1876, and at Nebraska City, the Nebraska Volksblatt and Staats Zeitung, started February 16, 1868, was removed to West Point during the '70s. Wisner had a paper, the Times, for about six months in 1874.

Dakota County. The North Nebraska Eagle started at Dakota City in 1876, and the North Nebraska Argus, in 1880.

Dawson County. The oldest newspaper of this county was the Dawson County Pioneer, founded November 29, 1873, with Daniel Freeman publisher and T. W. Smith editor. Hon. T. L. Warrington and W. J. Lamma started the Dawson County Press, at Plum Creek, now Lexington, also in 1881.

Dixon County. The North Nebraska Journal was started at Ponca in January, 1873. The next paper, the Dixon County Courier, started there in August, 1877.

Dodge County. The first paper in this county was the Fremont Tribune, which made its bow to the public July 24, 1868, founded by J. Newt Hays. The Tribune has become one of the best known papers in Nebraska, with Ross L. Hammond for many years its editor, one of the big figures of Nebraska journalism as well as republican politics.

The Fremont Herald, started in 1870, some five years later passed into the hands

of N. W. Samils and became another well-known Nebraska journal. North Bend's first paper was the *Independent*, started in 1879, but it became the *Bulletin* three years later.

Douglas County. The first papers in Omaha, the *Arrow* in 1854, the *Nebraskan*, 1854, and the *Times*, have been already mentioned earlier in this chapter. The history of the press in Omaha presents a splendid picture of the rise and fall of journals, the consolidation of others, and the survival of a very few. The *Telegraph* appeared as the first daily paper of Omaha on December 11, 1860. H. Z. Curtis, its owner, ran it until late in 1861 when he closed it and sold the subscription books to M. H. Clark, of the *Nebraskan*. T. H. Tibbles tried the *Independent* in 1877 as an organ of the Independent party, but it lasted only about a year. The *Nebraska Statesman* of 1864 was another short-lived member of the fraternity.

To no journal, and to the single efforts of no man, is the city of Omaha, the county of Douglas, or the State of Nebraska so indebted for the development of internal resources and to the multitude of blessings that a progressive, unselfish newspaper can bestow upon a community as to Dr. George L. Miller, who founded and built up the *Omaha Herald*. This paper entered its existence as a daily on October 2, 1865. All of the prior attempts to establish papers in Omaha, except the *Republican*, had failed. It came out at the start unqualifiedly as a democratic organ. The firm of Miller & Carpenter dissolved in August, 1868, and Lyman Richardson and John S. Briggs took over this journal. This regime lasted but a short time, but Dr. Miller remained as editor, and in February, 1869, took back the controlling interest. The firm of Miller & Richardson continued until March, 1888. Frank Morrissey, one of the associate editors, became editor under the next ownership, that of John A. McShane. After one year R. A. Craig became owner, and Edward L. Merritt was editor. In March, 1889, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, who when associated with Frank J. Burkley, Alfred Miller, William F. Gurley and W. V. Rooker had started the *Evening World*, in August, 1885, took over the *Herald*. The union of the *Herald* with the *Evening World* brought forth the familiar title, *World-Herald*. This paper has been conducted for more than thirty years under the ownership of Gilbert M. Hitchcock, with a brilliant line of editors, including William Jennings Bryan, Richard L. Metcalfe and Harvey E. Newbranch, its present editor, who if he has any peers, at least has no superiors in American Journalism as an editorial writer.

The *Omaha Tribune* started in 1871, but it later consolidated with the *Republican*.

On Monday, June 19, 1871, H. Geralde issued the first number of another Omaha newspaper, destined to be a great factor in the history of Nebraska, the *Omaha Bee*. The gradual growth of this journal furnishes one of the interesting chapters of Nebraska journalism. When it was a few weeks old, Mr. Edward Rosewater appeared as publisher and proprietor, although Mr. Geralde remained as editor. A lithographing department was added to the *Bee* as early as 1878. The controlling interest in this wonderfully successful paper remained in the hands of Mr. Edward Rosewater and his family until his death, and thereafter his son, Victor Rosewater, maintained charge of the paper, until in 1920 it was sold to Nelson B. Updike of Omaha. It has always been a stalwart and even "standpat" republican journal.

In the evening field the Omaha Evening News ventured forth in 1878, backed by Fred Nye of the Fremont Tribune, but it lasted only a couple of years, though in after years it has had an illustrious successor and namesake, the Daily News, a Scripps system or Clover-Leaf system paper, with Joseph Polcar as editor.

The foregoing roster does not in any respect begin to include all of the multitude of newspapers and periodicals that have graced the journalistic field in Douglas County.

Fillmore County. In Fairmont the early papers were the Fillmore Bulletin, started May 1, 1872, and the Nebraska Signal, October, 1881. The first paper in Geneva was the Review, in April, 1876. The Grafton Gazette was started in 1881, the Exeter Enterprise in October, 1878.

Franklin County. The pioneer paper of this county was the Bloomington Guard, established in 1872 by J. D. Calhoun, later associate editor of the State Journal at Lincoln. Franklin's first paper was the Republican Valley Echo, started by James F. Zediker in September, 1881. Naponee's first paper was the Banner.

Furnas County. The early papers of this county were the Beaver City Times; Oxford and Cambridge first established papers in 1881, but Arapahoe had the Pioneer in July, 1879, and the Mirror was started there in 1882.

Gage County. The Blue Valley Record was started at Beatrice in 1867; after changing to the Clarion in 1870, it became the Express, and under that title has continued for over forty years. The Gage County Democrat started in December, 1879, with George P. Marvin as editor, and the service of the Marvin family to Nebraska journalism is one of the longest. Another paper, started in 1873, bore the titles of Sentinel, Republican, Courier, and in 1881 became the Gage County Independent. The Weekly Mirror started at Blue Springs in 1876; in Wymore the Wymorean and the Reporter were the early papers.

Greeley County. The first newspaper in this county was the Greeley County Tribune, started at Scotia in October, 1877.

Hall County. The first newspaper in Hall County was probably the Huntsman's Echo, in 1860, published by Joseph Johnson, the Mormon editor, at the Wood River Center settlement at the western edge of the county. The first Hall County paper was the Platte Valley Independent, removed in 1870, from North Platte, where Mr. and Mrs. Seth P. Mobley had started it the year before. This paper became the Grand Island Independent and has passed its fiftieth year of continuous existence. The Grand Island Times, established in 1873, flourished as a daily for a time, a semiweekly and weekly at other periods. The Herald was started in 1880. Doniphan had a paper, the Index, started in 1879. The Wood River Gazette started in 1881.

Hamilton County. In 1873 J. M. Sechler began publishing the Hamiltonian at Orville. It moved in a few months to Sutton. The second paper started in the county was the Aurora Republican, owned by F. M. Ellsworth and Thomas Darnall, and edited by a Mr. Fox. The Hamilton County News also started at Orville in 1873, later being moved to Aurora.

Harlan County. The Standard was founded at Alma in 1879 and became the Herald; and the Harlan County News started first in Republican City in 1875, and was removed to Alma in 1881. The Weekly Enterprise started at Republican City in 1880, and the Sentinel at Orleans was started in 1873, being later taken to Melrose, and then back to Orleans.

Hitchcock County. The first paper in this far western county was the Culbertson Globe, started in 1879 by W. Z. Taylor, with Nat L. Baker as editor. John P. Isreal of Ottumwa, Iowa, came out in April, 1881, and took up the publication of the Sun at this point.

Howard County. The Phonograph was established at St. Paul in 1878. In 1881 the Democrat and Advocate started there, and consolidated later into the St. Paul Free Press.

Holt County. The Holt County Record was started in June, 1879, the first thirty numbers being printed at Niobrara, Knox County, and then it was removed to O'Neill. The Frontier was started on October 1, 1880, by W. D. Matthews. These papers were truly the "frontier" of Nebraska journals for some years to come.

Jefferson County. The oldest paper in this county was the Fairbury Gazette, established September 3, 1870, by George Cross; the Southern Nebraska Advance started in August, 1879, at Carleton, Thayer County; removed to Steele City in 1880 and to Fairbury in 1881. Fairbury presents a typical instance of the manner in which early newspaper ventures started up and often time flourished but a short time, as evidenced by the rise and fall of the Times, Independent, Clipper, Telegraph, New West Index and Field Notes, all within a few years' time.

Johnson County. The Tecumseh Journal was first published in Brownville in 1867, and sent over to Johnson County for distribution. This plan failed to work acceptably, and in 1868 the Tecumseh Gazette was established by Messrs. Presson & Andrews. G. W. and F. M. Fairbrother in 1869 started the Tecumseh Chieftain, which became the oldest permanent newspaper of the county. Other early papers at Tecumseh were the Herald, 1872; Journal, 1879, and Torchlight, 1880, started by the Fairbrothers after they sold the Chieftain. C. W. Pool, who in recent years served as secretary of state, while editor of the Johnson County Journal also published the Sterling News, which had been established there in 1877, and this town's next venture was the Press in 1881.

Kearney County. Minden's early paper was the Bee, which consolidated with the Newark Herald in April, 1882, to form the Kearney County Gazette.

Knox County. The Niobrara Pioneer was started in September, 1874, by Edwin A. Fry. Its first rival was the Knox County News, in May, 1879. Editor Fry started the Creighton Regulator April 26, 1882. The Knox County Times was started at Bazile Mills in May, 1881, by C. A. Hammond.

Lancaster County. Lincoln was proclaimed the capital of Nebraska, August 14, 1867, and the next day the Nebraska City Press contained the prospectus of a weekly paper to be started at Lincoln. The new candidate for journalistic honors was known as the Nebraska Commonwealth, and its founder was C. H. Gere. Its first number, issued on September 2d, was printed at the Press office, in Nebraska City, but its second number was printed at Lincoln. In the spring of 1869 its name was changed to the Nebraska State Journal. During the campaign of 1869-70 a daily campaign sheet was worked off, and in July, 1870, it became a daily paper. No paper in Nebraska, except it might be the Omaha Bee and World-Herald, has exercised a greater influence upon the history of the state than has the Journal. General Victor Vifquain and associates started the State Democrat, in June, 1879. In February, 1882, Albert Watkins purchased General Vifquain's interest and assumed editorial management. A German paper, the Staats Anzeiger, started in 1881. Erasmus M. Correll, one of the leaders of early Nebraska

journalism, started the *Western Woman's Journal* in 1881, and Lincoln had a farm paper, the *Nebraska Farmer*, started in November, 1877.

Lincoln County. The first newspaper venture in this region was the *Platte Valley Independent*, in 1869, by Mrs. Maggie Eberhart, assisted by S. P. Mobley, whom she later married. They went to Grand Island a year later and sold the new venture to Col. J. B. Park and Guy C. Barton, who continued the publication as the *Lincoln County Advocate*. The *North Platte Democrat*, started in 1871, and the *Enterprise*, consolidated as the *Advertiser*, and this paper became the *Republican*. Judge A. H. Church established the *Western Nebraskian* after he sold the *Republican*. The *Telegraph* was started April 14, 1881, by James McNulty.

Madison County. The *Norfolk Journal* was started September 15, 1881, by Norton & Sprecher. The *Times* was started September 1, 1880, but lasted only fourteen months and its material went into the new *Journal* office. Madison had the first paper in the county, the *Madison Review*, established in 1874, but it discontinued in 1878, and in 1879 the *Chronicle* was started.

Merrick County. The pioneer paper of this county was the *Merrick County News*, which made its first appearance March 21, 1872, at Lone Tree, the county seat. The next paper was the *Lone Tree Sentinel*, with W. H. Webster and George A. Percival as editors. It lasted only until its mission in advocacy of the *Midland Pacific* bonds was accomplished. Mr. Percival and L. Waters, in April, 1874, started the *Lone Tree Courier*, which absorbed the *Merrick County News*. The *Clarksville Messenger* started in May, 1878, and the *Merrick County Item*, January 14, 1880. The *Central City Nonpareil* was started on January 1, 1882, and this proved to be a permanent venture to date, almost forty years later.

Nance County. The *Nance County Journal* was the first paper in this part of the country. Its first number was issued in October, 1879, by A. E. Verity. Its name was changed in September, 1881, to the *Lariat*, but soon returned to the old name. The *Nance County Republican* was started by J. N. Reynolds, in October, 1881. Richard Nunnely, commonly known as "Antelope Dick," in July, 1879, started the *Genoa Magnet*, which became the *Leader*, in February, 1880.

Nemaha County. The foundation of the *Nebraska Advertiser* has already been mentioned in the early part of this chapter. For a few weeks in 1857 a sheet called the *Snort* was issued from the *Advertiser* office. The *Nemaha Valley Journal* was removed from Nemaha City to Brownville, but moved back again in a short time. The *Aspinwall Journal* came to Brownville in 1861 and was continued but a few months longer. The second *Nemaha Valley Journal*, started in 1867, was later taken to Falls City, Richardson County. The first paper in North Auburn was the *Sheridan Post*, established in 1879 by F. B. Tiffany.

Nuckolls County. The *Elktonian*, started in 1872, was the first paper in this county—printed in Lincoln and issued in Elkton, an aspirant for the county seat. The *Southwestern Chronicle* and *Inter-Ocean* were established at Nelson in 1875, but soon removed to Fairfield and became the *News* there. The *Nuckolls County Herald* was established in 1877. Hardy had a weekly paper, the *Herald*, in June, 1882, and the *Clipper*, a semi-monthly real estate publication, familiar in those days.

Otoe County. The *Nebraska City News* has been heretofore mentioned. The *People's Press* started in the spring of 1858. It became the *Press and Herald* and later the *Nebraska Press*. In 1872 it became the *Press and Chronicle*, and

finally dropped the latter name and became known as the Press. The Nebraska Deutsch Zeitung, later known as the Staats-Zeitung, started in 1861. Short-lived journalistic attempts were the Star of the West, at Otoe City, and the Phunny Phellow and the Daily and Weekly Chronicle as started in August, 1868. The Nebraska City Daily Sun was started April 29, 1879.

Pawnee County. The first paper in the county was the Pawnee Tribune, started in August, 1868. Its successor was the Republican, the name it assumed in 1872. The Enterprise was started at Table Rock in August, 1877, and was moved to Pawnee City in 1878.

Pierce County. The first paper in this county was the Pierce County Call, established October 6, 1877, at Pierce.

Phelps County. Two papers started at Phelps Center late in the '70s. They were the Nebraska Nugget and the Phelps County News.

Platte County. The first paper published in Columbus was the Golden Age, started on June 21, 1866. The next one to be issued was the Platte Valley Journal, which was followed soon by the Columbus Journal, first issued May 11, 1870. The Columbus Gazette was started in March, 1881. The Independent was first issued in 1878. In May, 1875, the Columbus Republican had been started, which Calmer McCune later moved to David City. The Era, which later became the Democrat, was started in February, 1874, with W. N. Hensley as editor.

Polk County. The first newspaper in this county was the Polk County Times, started at Stromsburg in 1872, edited by W. D. Ferre. The Osceola Record was inaugurated just before the death of the Times in 1872 as the Homesteader. The Herald, founded in December, 1879, by G. R. Nunnally, in 1880 was changed to the Home News, and later consolidated with the Record.

Red Willow County. Indianola's first paper was the Courier. McCook's first paper, the Tribune, was started June 8, 1882, by J. P. Isreal, who had sold his interest in the Culbertson Globe to found this paper in the new town.

Richardson County. Richardson County presents a list of early papers, illustrative of the early journalism. The Broad Axe was started in Falls City in the fall of 1858, owned by Maj. J. E. Burbank and edited by Sewall Jamieson. Its motto was "Hew to the mark, let the chips fall where they will." "There is a destiny which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will." It later became the Southern Nebraskian. "The Little Globe, a small journal with great aims," was established in 1873 with a flaming prospectus, of which the following extract will give some idea: "Little, but Oh, Lord! Prospectus of the Globe (the little) a journal of the third class, to be published every Saturday at Falls City, Neb. The Little Globe will be intensely local, and as independent as a hog on ice. We hope to bless this town." This modest announcement was signed "the meekest of men, Ed. W. Howe." This man's name has become a household word through the success he has since accomplished in Atchison, Kan., with his quaint but practical column of humor. The little journal he started, after a relapse, came forth in consolidation with the Nemaha Valley Journal as the Globe-Journal. The Journal had started at Brownville in 1868. The Falls City Press was started on February 1, 1875, and later became the News. The Richardson County Register was established in August, 1881, at Rulo. The Humboldt Sentinel was started on November 2, 1877. The Farmers' Advocate made its bow on July 9, 1881. The People's Paper was

the spasmodic and erratic product of a character known as "Peanut" Wilson and did not remain long in the field. Salem's early paper was the Advertiser.

Saline County. The first news journal in this county was the Saline County Post, at Crete, which was started in May, 1871, by Rev. Charles Little, a Congregational minister. It was consolidated in 1876 with the Saline County News, and that paper later became the Saline County Union. The Wilber Record became the Saline County Standard at Crete. In 1879 this paper came into the hands of F. O. Mark and W. G. and E. H. Purcell. The Saline County News had been started in Pleasant Hill, then the county seat of the county. It was removed to Crete after a year of existence. The Crete Sentinel was established in 1875 and the Saline County Democrat in 1876. The first paper attempted in Wilber was called the Opposition, a paper first published at DeWitt, where it continued until 1877. The Wilber Record has been mentioned; and the Free Press came over from DeWitt in 1878, and a Bohemian sheet called the Besada was tried in 1877 for a short time.

Sarpy County. The Palladium has already been well discussed as well as the Gazette and Platte Valley Times. The first paper in Papillion was the Sentinel, which started in 1872, and the Papillion Times, established in 1874, was the next.

Seward County. The Nebraska Reporter, at Seward, was founded in October, 1871. The Blue Valley Blade was started in 1879 and the Seward Gazette in 1882. At Milford the Seward County Democrat was started in February, 1882.

Sherman County. The first paper in this county was the Loup City News, issued on November 3, 1873. Its name was soon changed to the Sherman County Times, under which name it has remained.

Stanton County. Lewis Ley started the first paper in this county, the Stanton Bugle, in 1873. An opposition paper called the Stanton County Echo came out a year or so later. The Index followed the Bugle into the field, and also out of it. The Stanton Register was started in 1879.

Thayer County. The first member of the Thayer County press was the Hebron Journal, which one citizen said, while designated a "weekly" should be "weakly." He remarked it was a "tri-weekly" that is, "get out one week" and "try to get out the next." This journal was established by E. M. Correll, one of the leading figures of early Nebraska journalism, when the town had only three houses and the county a population of 500. In 1881, the Thayer County Sentinel and the Journal were consolidated. An alliance paper, the People's Advocate, was started on March 18, 1882. At Alexandria the News was started in 1879 by S. E. Babcock, first under the name of the Alexandrian.

Valley County. The Valley County Journal was founded in February, 1879, by J. H. Capron, and the Ord Weekly Quiz was founded on April 6, 1882, by Will W. Haskell. These two papers are running in 1920, approximately forty years later. Mr. Capron is a successful abstractor and real estate broker of Ord, and Mr. Haskell retired about two years ago after almost forty years' continuous service with the Quiz.

Washington County. The earliest newspapers of this county were established at Cumming City, when, in 1856, the Nebraska Pioneer was started, and in 1858 the Cumming City Star began to twinkle. The early papers in Desoto, among others, numbered the Desoto Pilot, established in 1857 by Isaac Parrish; the Washington County Sun, established in 1858 by P. C. Sullivan; and the Desoto Enquirer, by Z.

Jackson. Blair's early papers were the Pilot, brought from Tekamah by J. T. Lambert in 1874, and the Republican, started by W. H. B. Stout and others in 1870.

Other early papers in Blair were the Blair Register, started in May, 1869, by Hilton & Son, and which L. F. Hilton took charge of in 1871. The Washington County Democrat was started in September, 1881.

Wayne County. The Wayne County Review was started May 22, 1875, at La Porte by Huse & Hunter.

Webster County. The Webster County Argus was started in August, 1878, by A. J. Kenney. The Red Cloud Chief was established in July, 1873, by C. L. Mather. In its early days the Chief was printed on a Washington hand press, on which the oldest paper in Nebraska, the Brownville Advertiser, was first published in 1856. It is said that the first issue of the Lincoln Daily State Journal was also printed on this same press.

York County. The oldest of the newspapers of York is the Republican, which was founded in May, 1872. The Monitor, the Sentinel and the Record were the real early names of the first York papers. The name Republican was adopted by Messrs. Morgan and Ross in April, 1876. The York County Tribune was inaugurated by Frank A. Wellman, in March, 1877. The York County Times was established August 13, 1880.

NEWSPAPERS OF NEBRASKA TODAY

A review of the roster of Nebraska newspapers of this period will serve several purposes. It will show those few which have been able to survive a quarter-century and now and then one that has reached the half-century mark. It will serve as a catalogue of those towns large and small throughout the state that have reached a sufficient stage of importance to have a newspaper. A newspaper serves as the voice of the community, and no matter how small the town or how diminutive the "sheet" that issues forth each week from its post-office, its paper stamps the town as a community of individuality, progress, co-operation, optimism and real boosting spirit, or the opposite.

A study of the names of Nebraska newspapers brings out many characteristics of the state. Many of the papers reflect the days when politics had a much sharper partisan tinge than it has had in recent years. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Free-Press, Vindicator, Eagle, Delegate, are titles that suggest the old political rivalry, especially in many towns where one paper still bears the title Republican, and its ancient rival Democrat. The common names of papers expressing the purposes of a newspaper abound, such as Herald, Courier, Chronicle, Reporter, Tribune, Times, Messenger, News, Clarion, Advocate, Press, Journal, Monitor, Argus, Register, Dispatch, Review, Telegraph, Telepost, Post, Graphic, Items, Index, Call, Mirror, Exchange, and Observer; and some of the names denote speed and "Progress," such as Advance, Express, Optimist, Booster, Auxiliary, probably the only paper in the nation of that name, at Fairfield, except the national trade journal, "Publishers Auxiliary"; Locomotive, Spotlight, Beacon, Echo, Standard, Leader, Clipper, Rip-Saw, Enterprise and Banner. Unusual names as Vidette and Visitor appear. Sometimes a town is reflected as Waconion or Wymorean. The nature of the country sometimes is intimated as in Star, Breeze, Wave (though no ocean is near Nebraska), and Sun. The early Indian period

appears reflected in Frontier, Pioneer, Signal, Chief, Chieftain, Picket, Sentinel, Arbor State, Fontanelle; and the cattle days in Rustler, Blade, Maverick, and Stockman. The Faber is a paper that surely should receive pencils from a well known pencil manufacturer; the Loyalist reflects local pride; and Union, national sentiment.

NEWSPAPERS IN 1920

The present newspapers of Nebraska in 1920, with the year of their establishment, is herewith given. Unless otherwise indicated the paper is a weekly paper. This list is given by towns, and cross-reference from the list of early papers to this list will show those few of the early papers which have survived a quarter-century or longer. Where not otherwise indicated, paper usually carries the name of the town in its title.

- Adams, Gage Co. Globe, 1889.
- Ainsworth, Brown Co. Brown County Democrat, 1906; Star-Journal, 1880.
- Albion, Boone Co. Argus, 1876; News, 1879.
- Alexandria, Thayer Co. Argus, 1894.
- Allen, Dixon Co. News, 1890.
- Alliance, Box Butte Co. Herald, 1895; Times (Tues. and Fri.), 1887.
- Alma. Harlan County Journal, 1897; Record, 1892.
- Alvo, Cass Co. Advance.
- Anselmo, Custer Co. Enterprise, 1906.
- Ansley, Custer Co. Herald, 1891.
- Antioch, Sheridan Co. News, 1913.
- Arapahoe, Furnas Co. Public Mirror, 1882.
- Arcadia, Valley Co. Champion, 1896.
- Arlington, Washington Co. Review-Herald, 1882.
- Arnold, Custer Co. Sentinel, 1911.
- Arthur, Arthur Co. Enterprise, 1911.
- Ashland, Saunders Co. Gazette, 1878.
- Ashton, Sherman Co. Herald, 1915.
- Atkinson, Holt Co. Graphic, 1880.
- Auburn, Nemaha Co. Nemaha County Herald, 1888; Nemaha County Republican, 1879.
- Aurora, Hamilton Co. Hamilton County Register, 1890; the Sun, 1885, and the Republican, 1873.
- Axtell, Kearney Co. Guidax (Golden Ear), Swedish paper, monthly religious journal, 1913; the Times, 1896.
- Bancroft, Cuming Co. Blade, 1889.
- Bartlett, Wheeler Co. Wheeler County Independent, 1891.
- Bartley, Red Willow Co. Inter-Ocean, 1886.
- Bassett. Rock County Leader, 1897.
- Battle Creek, Madison Co. The Enterprise, 1887.
- Bayard, Morrill Co. Transcript, started in 1888 by the Wisner family and run by R. A. Wisner now; Farmers' Exchange, 1917.
- Beatrice, Gage Co. Express, evening, except Sunday, 1884; Sun, morning except Monday, 1902.
- Beaver City, Furnas Co. The Sun, 1918; Times-Tribune, 1873.

- Beemer, Cuming Co. Times, 1886.
Belden, Cedar Co. Progress, 1893.
Belgrade, Nance Co. Herald, 1900.
Bellwood, Butler Co. Gazette, 1886.
Benkleman, Dundy Co. News-Chronicle, 1893; Post, 1916.
Bennet, Lancaster Co. Sun, 1911.
Bennington. Douglas Co. Herald, 1904.
Benson. Douglas Times, 1903.
Bertrand. Phelps Independent-Herald, 1896.
Bethany, Lancaster Co. Cotner Collegian, by students of Cotner University, 1901.
Bladen, Webster Co. Enterprise, 1893.
Blair, Washington Co. Tribune, 1870; Pilot, 1872; Enterprise, 1896; and Dankersch (Danish), 1892.
Bloomfield, Knox Co. Journal, 1913; Monitor, 1890.
Bloomington. Franklin County Tribune, 1916; Advocate, 1881.
Blue Hill. Webster Leader, 1887.
Blue Springs, Gage Co. Sentinel, 1886.
Bradshaw, York Co. Monitor, 1896.
Brady, Lincoln Co. Vindicator, 1908.
Brainard, Butler Co. Clipper, 1897.
Brewster, Blaine Co. News, 1883.
Bridgeport, Morrill Co. Herald, 1912, conducted by C. D. Capper, a newspaper man of Nebraska for almost half a century who died late in 1920; News-Blade, 1900, when the town started.
Bristow, Boyd Co. Enterprise, 1902.
Broadwater, Morrill Co. News, 1911.
Brock, Nemaha Co. Bulletin, 1895.
Broken Bow, Custer Co. Custer County Chief, 1892, with a weekly circulation of approximately 4,000, one of the largest, if not the largest in the state; Custer County Republican, 1882, conducted for many years by Hon. D. M. Amsberry, the present secretary of state.
Brownlee, Cherry Co. Booster, 1914.
Bruning, Thayer Co. Banner, 1918.
Brunswick, Antelope Co. Independent, 1908.
Burchard. Pawnee Times, 1899.
Burwell, Garfield Co. Tribune, 1888.
Bushnell, Kimball Co. Record, 1917.
Butte, Boyd Co. Gazette, 1892.
Cairo, Hall Co. Record, 1903.
Callaway, Custer Co. Loup Valley Queen, 1902.
Cambridge, Furnas Co. Clarion, 1885.
Campbell, Franklin Co. Citizen, 1900.
Carroll, Wayne Co. Index, 1901.
Cedar Bluffs, Saunders Co. Standard, 1891.
Central City, Merrick Co. Nonpareil, 1882; Republican, 1893.
Chadron, Dawes Co. Chronicle, 1909; Journal, 1884.
Chambers, Holt Co. Sun, 1879.

Chappell, Deuel Co. Register, 1887.

Chester, Thayer Co. Herald, 1885.

Clarks, Merrick Co. Enterprise, 1891.

Clarkson. Colfax County Press, 1904; a Bohemian weekly, 1904.

Clay Center. Clay County Patriot, 1892; Clay County Sun, 1884.

Clearwater, Antelope Co. Record, 1897.

Cody, Cherry Co. Cow Boy, 1900.

Coleridge, Cedar Co. Blade, 1891.

College View. Christian Record, monthly, printed in raised type for the blind; Nebraska Club Bulletin, for Nebraska women's clubs, 1912; the Gazette-Advocate, 1910; Seventh Day Adventist publishing house is located here.

Columbus, Platte Co. News, evening, except Sunday; Telegram, Ex-Lieut. Gov. Edgar Howard, editor, 1879.

Comstock, Custer Co. News, 1907.

Cook, Johnson Co. Courier, 1892.

Cortland, Gage Co. News, 1897.

Cozad, Dawson Co. Local, 1897.

Crab Orchard, Johnson Co. Herald, 1889.

Craig, Burt Co. News, 1887.

Crawford, Dawes Co. Courier, 1906; Tribune, 1887.

Creighton, Knox Co. News, 1890.

Creston, Platte Co. Statesman, 1897.

Crete, Saline Co. Democrat, 1874; News, 1908; Vidette, 1870; Doane Owl, collegiate, 1878; and Zivot (Life) (Bohemian), 1910.

Crofton, Knox Co. Journal, 1906.

Crookston, Cherry Co. Herald, 1913.

Culbertson, Hitchcock Co. Banner, 1905.

Curtis, Frontier Co. Enterprise, 1890.

Dakota City. Dakota County Herald, 1891; North Nebraska Eagle, 1876.

Dalton, Cheyenne Co. Delegate, 1914.

Danbury. Red Willow News, 1898.

Dannebrog, Howard Co. News, 1898.

Davenport, Thayer Co. People's Journal, 1890.

Davey. Lancaster Mirror, by Lincoln publishing house; also one at Ceresco, so published.

David City. Butler County Press, 1873; People's Banner, 1890.

Dawson, Richardson Co. Reporter, 1913.

Decatur, Burt Co. Herald, 1902.

Deshler, Thayer Co. Rustler, 1899.

DeWitt, Saline Co. Eagle, 1894; Times-News, 1881.

Diller, Jefferson Co. Record, 1887.

Dix, Kimball Co. Tribune, 1919.

Dixon, Dixon Co. Journal, 1908.

Dodge, Dodge Co. Criterion, 1888.

Doniphan, Hall Co. Enterprise, 1914.

Dorchester, Saline Co. Star, 1881.

Douglas, Otoe Co. Enterprise, 1889, prints an edition for Burr, Neb., under name of Burr Bulletin.

- Dubois, Pawnee Co. Press, 1905.
 Dunbar, Otoe Co. Review, 1899.
 Dunning, Blaine County Booster, 1909.
 Eagle, Cass Co. Beacon, 1899.
 Eddyville. Enterprise, 1906.
 Edgar. Clay County Post, 1884; Sun, 1899.
 Elgin, Antelope Co. Review, 1897.
 Elkhorn, Douglas Co. Exchange, printed by Gazette, at Wahoo.
 Elmcreek, Buffalo Co. Beacon, 1898.
 Elmwood, Cass Co. Leader-Echo, 1886.
 Elwood, Gosper Co. Bulletin, 1896.
 Emerson, Dixon Co. Enterprise, 1892.
 Ericson, Wheeler Co. Journal, 1912.
 Eustis, Frontier Co. News, 1904.
 Ewing, Holt Co. People's Advocate, 1891.
 Exeter. Fillmore County News, 1891.
 Fairbury, Jefferson Co. Journal, 1892; News and Gazette, 1897.
 Fairfield, Clay Co. Auxiliary, 1911.
 Fairmont. Fillmore Chronicle, 1872.
 Falls City, Richardson Co. Journal, evening except Sunday, 1866; News, morning except Monday, 1874.
 Farnam, Dawson Co. Echo, 1903.
 Filley, Gage Co. Spotlight, 1915.
 Firth, Lancaster Co. Advocate, 1915.
 Florence, Douglas Co. Fontanelle, 1915.
 Fort Calhoun, Washington Co. Chronicle, 1915.
 Franklin. Franklin County News, 1910; Sentinel, 1890.
 Fremont, Dodge Co. Tribune, evening except Sunday, 1883; Herald, 1871.
 Friend, Saline Co. Sentinel, 1898; Telegraph, 1877.
 Fullerton, Nance Co. News-Journal, 1879; Post, 1888.
 Gandy. Logan County Pioneer, 1886.
 Geneva, Fillmore Co. Nebraska Signal, 1875.
 Genoa, Nance Co. Indian News, monthly, Indian affairs, 1897; Leader, 1879; The Times; 1902.
 Gering, Scotts Bluff Co. Courier, 1887; Midwest, 1915.
 Gibbon, Buffalo Co. Reporter, 1890.
 Gilead, Thayer Co. News, printed by Hebron Register.
 Giltner, Hamilton Co. Gazette, 1901.
 Gordon, Sheridan Co. Journal, 1892.
 Gothenberg, Dawson Co. Independent, 1885; Times, 1908.
 Grand Island, Hall Co. Daily Independent, except Sunday, as a daily in 1883; started as Platte Valley Independent, a weekly, in 1869, at North Platte, and 1870 at Grand Island, semiweekly issued Tuesday and Friday; Herald, weekly (formerly German paper); Volante, by students of Grand Island College.
 Grant, Perkins Co. Tribune-Sentinel, 1897.
 Greeley, Greeley Co. Citizen, 1892; Leader-Independent, 1887.
 Greenwood, Cass Co. Gazette, by Interstate Co., at Lincoln.
 Gresham, York Co. Gazette, 1887.

- Gretna, Sarpy Co. Breeze, 1899.
 Guide Rock, Webster Co. Signal, 1883.
 Haigler, Dundy Co. News, 1911.
 Hardy, Nuckolls Co. Herald, 1880.
 Harrisburg. Banner County News, 1893.
 Harrison, Sioux Co. Sun, 1900.
 Hartington. Cedar County News, 1898; Herald, 1883.
 Harvard, Clay Co. Courier, 1885.
 Hastings. Adams County Democrat, 1880; Tribune, evening except Sunday, 1905; Collegian, Hastings College students.
 Havelock, Lancaster Co. Post, 1913; Times, 1890.
 Hayes Center, Hayes Co. Times-Republican, 1886.
 Hay Springs, Sheridan Co. News, 1910.
 Hebron, Thayer Co. Journal, 1871; Register, 1883, prints editions as Gilead News and Bruning Courier.
 Hemingford, Box Butte Co. Ledger, 1915.
 Henry, Scottsbluff Co. Messenger, 1917.
 Herman, Washington Co. Record, 1908.
 Hershey, Lincoln Co. Times, 1911.
 Hickman, Lancaster Co. Enterprise, 1886.
 Hildreth, Franklin Co. Telescope, 1887.
 Holbrook, Furnas Co. Observer, 1905.
 Holdrege, Phelps Co. Citizen, 1884; Progress, 1887.
 Homer, Dakota Co. Star, 1910.
 Hooper, Dodge Co. Sentinel, 1885.
 Hoskins, Wayne Co. Headlight, 1905.
 Howell, Colfax Co. Journal, 1888.
 Hubbell, Thayer Co. Standard, 1890.
 Humboldt, Richardson Co. Leader, 1897; Standard, 1890.
 Humphrey, Platte Co. Democrat, 1886.
 Hyannis. Grant County Tribune, 1888.
 Imperial, Chase Co. Republican, 1899.
 Indianola, Red Willow Co. Reporter, 1891.
 Inman, Holt Co. Leader, 1914.
 Jansen. Jefferson County News, 1915.
 Johnson. Nemaha County News, 1892.
 Johnstown, Brown Co. Enterprise, 1908.
 Kearney, Buffalo Co. Hub, started 1874, daily, evening except Sunday, and Thursday weekly edition; Democrat, 1894; Nebraska State Grange Journal published here.
 Kenesaw, Adams Co. Progress, 1917.
 Kennard. Washington County News, 1916.
 Kilgore. Cherry County Messenger, 1918.
 Kimball. Western Nebraska Observer, 1885. This paper had as its early editor Charles H. Randall, the only prohibition candidate ever elected to Congress, now a resident of California.
 Lakeside, Sheridan Co. Sun, 1918.
 Laurel, Cedar Co. Advocate, 1893.

Lawrence, Nuckolls Co. Locomotive, 1888.

Lebanon, Red Willow Co. Advertiser, 1912.

Leigh, Colfax Co. World, 1885.

Lewellen, Garden Co. Optimist, 1917.

Lewiston, Pawnee Co. Post, 1912.

Lexington. Dawson County Pioneer, 1873; Clipper-Citizen, 1888.

Liberty, Gage Co. Journal, 1882.

Lincoln, Lancaster Co. Nebraska State Journal, every morning, evening edition formerly Evening News, weekly on Wednesday. Daily Star, each evening except Sunday and on Sunday morning. Inter-state Newspaper Company issues Alva Advance, Ceresco Courier, Davey Mirror, Denton Record, Garland Herald, Greenwood Gazette, Nebraska State Democrat at Lincoln; Malcolm Messenger; Martel Leader, Raymond Review and Waverly Watchman. Lincoln has numerous papers for trades, societies, including University of Nebraska publications, Daily Nebraskan, Awgan and Cornhusker (annual), German Freie Presse, W. J. Bryan's Commoner, Weekly Herald, Journal of Orthopedic Surgery, Midwest Printer, Motor Highway, Nebraska Farmer, owned by Governor S. R. McKelvie, Nebraska Legal News, Trade Review, and numerous publications by state associations with headquarters here.

Lindsay, Platte Co. Post, 1897.

Lisco, Garden Co. Tribune, 1912.

Litchfield, Sherman Co. Monitor, 1886.

Lodge Pole, Cheyenne Co. Express, 1886.

Long Pine, Brown Co. Journal, 1883.

Loomis, Phelps Co. Sentinel, 1910.

Louisville, Cass Co. Courier, 1890.

Loup City. Sherman County Times, 1877; People's Standard, 1919.

Lynch, Boyd Co. Herald, 1897.

Lyons, Burt Co. Mirror-Sun, 1884.

McCook. Red Willow County Gazette, 1911; Republican, 1880; Tribune, 1882.

McCool Junction, York Co. Blue Valley Journal, 1897.

Madison, Madison Co. Star-Mail, 1893; Chronicle, 1873.

Mason City, Custer Co. Transcript, 1909.

Maxwell, Lincoln Co. Telepost, 1910.

Maywood, Frontier Co. Eagle-Reporter, 1891, prints also the Dickens Enterprise; Moorefield Herald; Wellfleet News.

Meadow Grove, Madison Co. News, 1906.

Merna, Custer Co. Messenger, formerly the Postal-Card, 1902.

Merriman, Cherry Co. Maverick, 1910.

Milford, Seward Co. Review, 1910.

Millard, Douglas Co. Courier, issued by Waterloo Gazette.

Milligan, Fillmore Co. Times, 1901.

Minatare, Scottsbluff Co. Free Press, 1908.

Minden, Kearney Co. Courier, 1890; News, 1894.

Mitchell, Scottsbluff Co. Index, 1901.

Monroe, Platte Co. Republican, 1894.

Moorefield, Frontier Co. Issued by Maywood Eagle-Reporter.

Morrill, Scottsbluff Co. Mail, 1907.

Mullen. Hooker County Tribune, 1894.

Nebraska City, Otoe Co. News, evening except Sunday and Thursday, started in 1854, daily in 1874; Nebraska Press, morning except Monday, started in 1858.

Nehawka, Cass Co. News-Ledger, 1888.

Neligh, Antelope Co. Leader, 1885; Register, 1903; News, 1915.

Nelson. Nuckolls County Herald, 1876; Gazette, 1884.

Newcastle, Dixon Co. Times, 1893.

Newman Grove, Madison Co. Reporter, 1886.

Niobrara, Knox Co. Tribune, 1890.

Norfolk, Madison Co. News, evening except Sunday, 1887; Press, 1902; a German weekly, 1908.

North Bend, Dodge Co. Eagle, 1890.

North Loup, Valley Co. Loyalist, 1888.

North Platte, Lincoln Co. Telegraph, evening except Sunday, since 1908, and Thursday, weekly since 1873; Tribune, Tuesday and Friday, 1885.

Oak, Nuckolls Co. Leaf, 1914.

Oakdale, Antelope Co. Sentinel, 1887.

Oakland, Burt Co. Independent-Republican, 1880.

Oconto, Custer Co. Oconto Register, 1905.

Odell, Gage Co. Wave, 1893.

Ogalalla. Keith County News, 1884.

Omaha. Bee, World-Herald and Daily News, each issue several editions a day; Bee and World-Herald, morning, noon and evening editions, except only morning on Sunday, and News, mainly noon and evening daily editions and Sunday morning. Weekly papers in Omaha are: Danske Pioneer (Danish), Sophus F. Neble, editor; Examiner, Alf. Sorenson; Excelsior, Clement Chase; Gwiazda Zachodu (Western Star) Polish; Jewish Bulletin; Mid-West Hotel Reporter; Monitor (Negro); Nebraska Democrat, John M. Tanner, editor; Bohemian daily and weekly; Pokrok (Progress); Swedish-Posten; Bohemian, Rozheedy (Review); Italian, Stampa (press) Trade Exhibit; German Tribune, daily and weekly; daily legal paper; Record, N. O. Talbot, editor; True Voice, Catholic; Unionist, Western Laborer; North Omaha Booster. A dozen or more monthlies for various trades, societies or associations grace Omaha's journalistic field. Among these are Creighton Chronicle, collegiate; Crozier, Episcopal; Bohemian Poultry News (Drubeznicke Noviny); Middle West School Review; Motorist; Nebraska Loyalist; Nebraska State Medical; Journal, recently edited by Dr. J. M. Aiken, who died in November, 1920; Nebraska Union Farmer, semimonthly; Sovereign Visitor and Woodmen News, issued by Woodmen of the World, which order has its national headquarters in an eighteen story building it built in Omaha; Tidings, organ of Woodmen Circle; Time-Saver Railway Guide; Tradesman; Ungdom (Danish), semimonthly; Western Medical Review, Dr. A. L. Muirhead, editor; Western Scot, devoted to Scottish interests.

O'Neill, Holt Co. Frontier, 1880; Holt County Independent, 1891.

Ong, Clay Co. Sentinel, 1919.

Orchard, Antelope Co. News, 1902.

Ord, Valley Co. Journal, 1883; Quiz, 1882.

Orleans, Harlan Co. Chronicle, 1914.

- Osceola. Polk County Democrat, 1888, edited by former State Printer E. A. Walrath; Record, 1876.
- Oshkosh. Garden County News, 1909.
- Osmond, Pierce Co. Republican, 1891.
- Otoe. Otoe County Times, 1915.
- Overton, Dawson Co. Herald, 1901.
- Oxford, Furnas Co. Standard, 1885.
- Page, Holt Co. Reporter, 1902.
- Palisade, Hitchcock Co. Times, 1909.
- Palmer, Merrick Co. Journal, 1911.
- Palmyra, Otoe Co. Items, 1887.
- Papillion, Sarpy Co. Times, 1874.
- Pawnee City, Pawnee Co. Pawnee Chief, 1900; Pawnee Republican, 1868; Pawnee County Schools, monthly, educational, 1902.
- Pender, Thurston Co. Republic, 1889; Times, 1886.
- Peru, Nemaha Co. Normalite, by Normal students, collegiate; Pointer, 1897.
- Petersburg, Boone Co. Index, 1891.
- Pierce. Pierce County Call, 1877; Pierce County Leader, 1889.
- Pilger, Stanton Co. Herald, 1901.
- Plainview, Pierce Co. News, 1892.
- Platte Center. Platte Signal, 1894.
- Plattsmouth, Cass Co. Journal, evening except Sunday, since 1904, and Monday and Thursday. Started in 1881.
- Plymouth, Jefferson Co. News, 1893.
- Polk, Polk Co. Progress, 1907.
- Ponca. Dixon County Advocate, 1915; Nebraska Journal-Leader, 1871.
- Potter, Cheyenne Co. Review, 1912.
- Primrose, Boone Co. Press, 1911.
- Ragan, Harlan Co. Journal, 1906.
- Ralston, Douglas Co. Industrial, 1914.
- Randolph, Cedar Co. Times-Enterprise, 1888.
- Ravenna. News, 1886. Its editor, C. B. Cass, is one of the veterans of the journalistic fold of Nebraska.
- Raymond, Lancaster Co. Review, by Interstate Co., Lincoln.
- Red Cloud, Webster Co. Chief, started in 1873; Advertiser, weekly 1912, and thrice-a-week as Commercial-Advertiser, Webster County Argus, since 1878.
- Republican City. Harlan County Ranger, 1902.
- Rising City, Butler Co. Independent, 1880.
- Riverton, Franklin Co. Review, 1870.
- Rosalie, Thurston Co. Rip-Saw, 1909.
- Rulo, Richardson Co. Star, 1919.
- Rushville, Sheridan Co. Standard, 1885; Recorder, 1895.
- Ruskin, Nuckolls Co. News, 1912.
- St. Edward. Boone County Advance, 1900.
- St. Paul, Howard Co. Phonograph, edited by former State Printer J. F. Webster, 1871; Republican, 1890.
- Salem, Richardson Co. Standard, 1910.
- Sargent, Custer Co. Leader, 1899.

- Schuyler, Colfax Co. Sun, since 1871; Messenger, 1909.
 Scotia, Greeley Co. Register, 1895.
 Scottsbluff, Scottsbluff Co. Republican, 1900; Star-Herald, 1906.
 Scribner, Dodge Co. Rustler, 1894.
 Seneca. Thomas County Clipper, 1910.
 Seward, Seward Co. Blue Valley Blade, 1877; Seward County Tribune, 1915;
 Independent-Democrat, 1891; Journal, 1899.
 Shelby, Polk Co. Sun, 1898.
 Shelton. Buffalo Clipper, 1879.
 Shickley, Fillmore Co. Herald, 1886.
 Shubert. Richardson Citizen, 1894.
 Sidney, Cheyenne Co. Telegraph, 1873; Enterprise, 1917.
 Silver Creek, Merrick Co. Sand, 1903.
 Snyder, Dodge Co. Banner, 1906.
 South Sioux City, Dakota Co. Mail, 1919.
 Spalding, Greeley Co. Enterprise, 1901.
 Spencer, Boyd Co. Advocate, 1893.
 Springfield, Sarpy Co. Monitor, 1882.
 Springview, Keya Paha Co. Herald, 1886.
 Stamford, Harlan Co. Star, 1914.
 Stanton, Stanton Co. Picket, 1893; Register, 1877.
 Stapleton, Logan Co. Enterprise, 1912.
 Steele City, Jefferson Co. Press, 1904.
 Steinauer, Pawnee Co. Star, 1892.
 Stella, Richardson Co. Press, 1882.
 Sterling, Johnson Co. Sun, 1886.
 Stockville, Frontier Co. Faber, 1884.
 Stratton, Hitchcock Co. News, 1910.
 Stromsburg, Polk Co. Headlight, 1885.
 Stuart, Holt Co. Advocate, 1906.
 Sumner, Dawson Co. News, 1907.
 Superior, Nuckolls Co. Express, 1900; Journal, 1882; Philatelic West and
 Collector's Monthly, 1895.
 Surprise, Butler Co. Enterprise, 1914.
 Sutherland, Lincoln Co. Courier, 1897.
 Sutton, Clay, Co. Register, 1880; News, 1887.
 Syracuse, Otoe Co. Journal-Democrat, 1878.
 Table Rock, Pawnee Co. Argus, 1882.
 Talmage, Otoe Co. Tribune, 1882.
 Tamora, Seward Co. Sheilds Tamora Lyre, 1916.
 Taylor, Loup Co. Clarion, 1883.
 Tecumseh, Johnson Co. Chieftain, since 1865; Johnson County Journal, 1878.
 Tekamah. Burt County Herald, 1884; Journal, 1873.
 Thedford. Thomas County Herald, 1898.
 Tilden, Madison Co. Citizen, 1890.
 Tobias, Saline Co. Express, 1884.
 Trenton, Hitchcock Co. Register, 1884; Republican Valley Leader, 1894.
 Tryon, McPherson Co. Graphic, 1889.

- Uehling, Dodge Co. Post, 1919.
 Ulysses, Butler Co. Dispatch, 1880.
 Unadilla, Otoe Co. Union, 1896.
 University Place, Lancaster Co. News, 1905; Wesleyan, collegiate, 1890.
 Upland, Frankling Co. Eagle, 1898.
 Utica, Seward Co. Sun, 1887.
 Valentine, Cherry Co. Democrat, 1885; Republican, 1887.
 Valley, Douglas Co. Enterprise, 1887; West End Advocate, 1915.
 Valparaiso, Saunders Co. Visitor, 1891.
 Verdel, Knox Co. Outlook, 1902.
 Verdigre, Knox Co. Citizen, 1899.
 Verdon, Richardson Co. Vedette, 1883.
 Waco, York Co. Waconian, 1919.
 Wahoo, Saunders Co. Democrat, 1884, edited by former state printer, N. J. Ludi; Wasp, 1875.
 Wakefield, Dixon Co. Republican, 1882.
 Wallace, Lincoln Co. Winner, 1908.
 Walthill, Thurston Co. Citizen, 1915; Times, 1906.
 Waterloo, Douglas Co. Independent, 1895, prints and issues Elkhorn Exchange and Millard Courier.
 Wauneta, Chase Co. Breeze, 1887.
 Wausa, Knox Co. Gazette, 1898.
 Waverly. Lancaster Watchman, by Interstate Publishing Company of Lincoln.
 Wayne, Wayne Co. Herald, 1874; Nebraska Democrat, 1884.
 Weeping Water, Cass Co. Republican, 1882.
 Wellfleet. News, by Maywood Eagle-Reporter.
 Western, Saline Co. Wave, 1882.
 West Point, Cuming Co. Democrat, 1875; Republican, 1870.
 Wilber. Saline County Democrat, 1888; Republican, 1887.
 Wilcox, Kearney Co. Herald, 1884.
 Wilsonville, Furnas Co. Review, 1885.
 Winnebago, Thurston Co. Chieftain, 1907.
 Winnetoon, Knox Co. Pioneer, 1910.
 Winside, Wayne Co. Tribune, 1889.
 Wisner, Cuming Co. Chronicle, 1886.
 Wolbach, Greeley Co. Messenger, 1906.
 Wood Lake, Cherry Co. Stockman, 1911.
 Wymore, Gage Co. Arbor State, evening except Sunday and Friday, weekly since 1874, and daily since 1916; Wymorean, 1882.
 Wynot, Cedar Co. Tribune, 1907.
 York, York Co. Republican, 1876; Democrat, 1881; News-Times, daily, evening except Sunday, 1909; New-Teller, 1897.
 Yutan, Saunders Co. News-Advocate, 1915.
 Among new newspapers started in 1920 are: Curtis Courier; Madrid (Perkins Co.) Herald; Maskell (Dixon Co.) Herald; Melbeta (Scottsbluff Co.) Times; Newport (Rock Co.) News; Verdon (Richardson Co.) Delphic, and Virginia (Gage Co.) Virginian.

CHAPTER XI

BANKING IN NEBRASKA

TERRITORIAL WILD CAT BANKING—EARLY BANKS AT: NEBRASKA CITY—OMAHA—
LINCOLN — BEATRICE — BLAIR—BROWNVILLE—COLUMBUS—CRETE—FAIRBURY—
FREMONT—GRAND ISLAND—KEARNEY—MADISON—NORFOLK—PAWNEE CITY—
PLATTSMOUTH—SCHUYLER—TECUMSEH—WEST POINT—YORK—BUILDING AND
LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

TERRITORIAL WILD-CAT BANKING

The early banking history of Nebraska during territorial days is badly marred with considerable "wild-cat" records. Some brief conception of the operations of these wild-cat banks may possibly be gained by a brief examination, and a few excerpts from a paper prepared by A. G. Warner for the Nebraska State Historical Society, and published in Vol. II (1887) of its Proceedings and Compilations. Mr. Warner defined the operation of wild-cat banking something like this:

"Just at the beginning of the present century, in the Empire state, that congenial home of all forms of political rascality, Aaron Burr had tried his prentice hand at stealing a bank charter through the New York legislature under the guise of a bill to incorporate 'A company to supply the city of New York with water.' Following the lead of Massachusetts and New York, various states tried first special and then general acts of incorporation for banks having a right to issue currency, but like the traveler choosing between two roads in an Illinois swamp, whichever way they went they were sure to wish they had gone the other."

The experience of older states in creating banks brought about by illicit lobbying, meeting the examiner's visit with specially borrowed specie, with many times the amount of worthless notes in the hands of a gullible public as it began to have assets, and even at times the "busting" of a bank named for some place that never existed in the state seemed never to teach the new ones anything. It was only another form of the spirit that in recent years has permitted such unbridled traffic in oil stocks, worthless securities and stocks of "well watered" promoting schemes, despite securities and blue-sky laws as well devised as legal minds have been able to figure them out. Even Nebraska was no exception. Its first company to be incorporated was the "Western Fire and Marine Insurance and Exchange Company," on March 16, 1855, with powers to issue currency, and do various financial business that the modern banking laws would hardly permit to the best regulated bank, and so much so, that it surreptitiously got itself into existence as the "Western Exchange Bank of Omaha." Its cashier was Levy R. Tuttle, who afterwards, under Lincoln, was treasurer of the United States and the paying teller was A. M. Wyman, who at a subsequent period held the same high honor.

A. D. Jones, a representative from Douglas County, claimed in his day to have consistently voted against the flock of banking bills in the first Legislature.

This fight came up in the second Legislature, and J. Sterling Morton fought against the chartering of banks on any system except that of surplus capital. Five banks were chartered in this session: The Platte Valley Bank (at Nebraska City), the first bank established there; Stephen F. Nuckolls was president and Joshua Garside, cashier. It was one of the six territorial banks that survived the panic of 1857 and one of the few that was really owned locally. The Fontanelle Bank at Florence, its owners being Greene, Weare & Benton. It went under in the panic of 1857. The Bank of Florence, which also went under at that time. The Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha, Samuel Moffatt, cashier, the second of the three Douglas County banks to go under in the panic of 1857. The Nemaha Valley Bank at Brownville. The charters had all been drawn in similar form, were "lobbied through" in similar manner, and each company was made up of a few persons. The stock was either \$50,000 or \$100,000, to be increased at will to \$500,000 and divided in shares of \$100 each. When \$25,000 of this stock had been *subscribed* the company could go to work.

Mr. Warner summarizes this stock as being "assignable and transferable according to such regulations as the directors might think proper. The bank had the power to issue notes, bills, and other certificates of indebtedness, to deal in exchange and do a general banking business. The stockholders were individually liable for the redemption of the currency issued, but there was no provision for a fixed specie reserve, nor other guard against individual rascality or incompetency."

Anyone desiring to examine the text of these charters may find them in Acts of Second Legislative Session, pp. 224, 230, 177, 202 and 208. No annual report was ever made in accordance with such provision as there was for that safeguard.

After the ruin of 1857 struck Nebraska, a correspondent of the St. Louis Republican thus placed the ownership of the new Territory's first six banks, and two of their predecessors:

- Nemaha Valley Bank, Galesburg, Ill.
- Platte Valley Bank, Nebraska City, Neb.
- Fontanelle Bank of Florence, Elgin, Ill.
- Western Fire & Marine Ins. Bank, Galva, Ill.
- Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha and Council Bluffs, Ia.
- Bank of Florence, Davenport, Ia.
- Bank of Desoto, Wisconsin.
- Bank of Tekamah, Bloomington and Gossport, Ind.

This list was reprinted in the Brownville Advertiser of July 8, 1858.

The third session was swamped with such bills, but only two banks reached the final goal of incorporation, the bank of Desoto and Bank of Tekamah, mentioned above.

The panic of 1857 practically ended the passage of special acts of incorporation for banks, except there was an attempt to "wire" through the 1858 session a measure to establish a "State Bank of Nebraska" to do business with the state and have branches in other parts of the commonwealth. Even though the measure passed the council, Dr. G. L. Miller stemmed the tide by exposing an attempt to bribe him, by leaving a note on his desk that if he would support the measure he would receive

\$250 in cash and the privilege of making a loan of \$5,000 without interest when the institution should be started.

A great many of the earlier more substantial banks which started as the communities began to build up were private institutions and later became state and national banks. We will only endeavor in the following brief review to list some of the earlier towns and mention the first banks that started in those towns, to give an idea of the evolution of the present Nebraska banking system.

Nebraska City. James Sweet National Bank, established September 19, 1859, as a private bank, by Cheever, Sweet & Co., and assumed the title first given on June 30, 1881, after four or five changes in the membership of the firm. James Sweet was president and head of it.

Otoe County National Bank, chartered May, 1865, Talbot Ashton, president, J. Metcalf, cashier.

Nebraska City National Bank, 1871, O. J. McCann, president, John W. Steinhart, acting cashier.

Omaha. A cursory examination of the banks that came and went during a quarter century, after the panic of 1857, in Omaha, will serve as a good barometer of the progress of the banking business in Nebraska.

Private banks were started during the period from 1857 to 1860 by Samuel E. Rogers, Smith & Parmalee, and Gridley & Co. None of these were longlived, however.

In 1858 William Young Brown started a bank of issue on the corner of Farnam and Eleventh streets, of which J. D. Briggs was cashier. This bank went into liquidation after a year or so, leaving its paper afloat.

J. A. Ware & Co. started a bank at the corner of Thirteenth and Farnam streets in 1865 and continued in business for five or six years. The firm was composed of J. A. Ware, Nebraska City; J. W. Angus, Omaha; and P. S. Wilson, Cheyenne.

In April, 1868, the "Central National Bank" was organized with John McCormick, president; J. E. Boyd, vice president; and J. M. Watson, cashier. It was located on the south side of Farnam Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. In January, 1871, this bank wound up its affairs and closed its doors.

These institutions have been dealt with a little out of chronological order for the reason that they were short-lived. To revert back to early days, the first banking house established in Omaha (and the oldest with one exception in the Territory) was that of Barrows, Millard & Co., which started early in 1856. The house was composed of Willard Barrows, J. H. Millard, Ezra Millard and S. S. Caldwell. Business prospered with the firm.

In 1864 the title became Millard, Caldwell & Co., and May 1, 1868, the firm name became Caldwell, Hamilton & Co., C. W. Hamilton at this time purchasing the entire interest of Mr. Millard. In October, 1883, this firm's bank opened up as the United States National Bank.

The house of Kountze Bros. was established in 1857 by Augustus, L. W. and Herman Kountze. A large business was done by this firm down to the year 1865 when it merged into the First National Bank.

The First National Bank was organized August 26, 1863; commenced business April 1, 1864, and was consolidated with the preceding firm July 1, 1865. The first officers were Edward Creighton, president, and Herman Kountze, cashier. The first board of directors were Augustus Kountze, Herman Kountze, Edward

Creighton, W. H. S. Hughes and Louis J. Ruth. The capital stock at the organization of the bank was \$50,000. This amount has been increased from time to time, as follows: January 19, 1865, to \$65,000; October 13, 1865, to \$100,000; June 19, 1869, to \$200,000. May 6, 1864, Augustus Kountze was elected as vice president of the bank, there having been no such officer elected prior to that time. He remained in this position until February 14, 1865, when Alvin Saunders was elected vice president and Kountze became cashier. January 12, 1869, Herman Kountze was elected vice president, and H. W. Yates, assistant cashier. July 8, 1874, Mr. Yates was elected cashier, and Augustus Kountze, second vice president. Herman Kountze was elected president, January 12, 1875, and Augustus Kountze, vice president, at the same time. F. H. Davis became assistant cashier, January 9, 1877. The present board of directors are Herman Kountze, Augustus Kountze, John A. Creighton, A. J. Poppleton and F. H. Davis. On March 1, 1882, Mr. Yates retired from the bank and F. H. Davis succeeded him as cashier.

For the first twenty days in October, 1866, the average business transactions per day amounted to \$14,432.18, including the cash on hand. The average daily transactions for a corresponding period in October, 1881, were \$811,108.11, including also the cash on hand. Exclusive of cash on hand, in October, 1866, the average daily transactions were \$5,905.76, and in October, 1881, \$529,569.20. The first board of directors were Ezra Millard, S. S. Caldwell, Joseph N. Field, J. D. Brown, R. A. Brown, Thomas Martin and A. J. Simpson. The present board of directors are Ezra Millard, J. H. Millard, J. J. Brown, A. J. Simpson and William Wallace. The bank has at present a surplus capital of \$100,000. In 1877 the bank retired one-half of its \$180,000 circulation, leaving \$90,000 outstanding.

The State Bank of Nebraska was organized and commenced business June 1, 1870. The board of directors were Alvin Saunders, Enos Lowe, Samuel E. Rogers, A. D. Jones, Jonas Gise, John R. Porter, J. Weightman, C. H. Downs and J. A. Horbach. The capital stock is \$100,000, one-half of which was paid in and the remainder paid from the profits. This was the first state bank organized in Nebraska, as well as the first instituted under the amended banking law of the state, which permitted them to receive deposits in excess of two-thirds of the capital stock. Alvin Saunders was its first president, J. R. Porter, vice president, and B. B. Wood, cashier. June 5, 1876, Mr. Saunders retired from the presidency of the bank, and Frank Murphy was elected to succeed him. In 1871, Enos Lowe was elected vice president of the bank; he was succeeded by Samuel E. Rogers, June 5, 1876. July 15, 1874, Luther Drake became assistant cashier.

The Nebraska National Bank was opened in April, 1882, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000, and the following directors: S. R. Johnson, A. E. Touzalin, W. V. Morse, John S. Collins, James M. Woolworth, Lewis S. Reed and Henry W. Yates.

The United States National Bank, through succession to Barrows, Millard & Co., and Millard, Caldwell & Co., the oldest bank in the State of Nebraska, after almost forty years as a national bank has become one of the two largest Omaha banks. Charles W. Hamilton, S. S. Caldwell, Milton T. Barlow and V. B. Caldwell have been the men to whom the credit for the success of this institution mainly reflects. The record of Ex-Senator Joseph H. Millard of over half a century service with the Omaha National Bank has been one of the landmarks of American

banking. The First National Bank has continued to be one of the larger institutions of Omaha, with F. H. Davis in more recent years serving as president.

In 1882 the old firm of J. A. Ware & Company was reorganized and came out as the Merchants National. The service of H. W. Yates as cashier and president of the Nebraska National Bank is another landmark record in Nebraska banking annals. Newer banks in Omaha, were the City National, which operated for a decade or more prior to its purchase by the younger State Bank of Omaha, organized in 1912; the Corn Exchange National Bank, 1909, and the Central State, and Commercial State, organized in 1916. South Omaha has the very strong South Omaha Savings Bank, 1888; Packers National Bank, 1890; Live Stock National Bank, 1907; Stock Yards National Bank, organized under its present name in 1911 and succeeding to the old Union Stock Yards National. The service of H. C. Bostwick, as president of this bank is another of the credit marks of the Nebraska banking profession. The Security State in 1914 is the junior bank down there. Omaha has had a long list of defunct banks, in between the two extremes pictured in this review, of the struggling pioneer banks and the solidly established financial bulwarks of today.

Lincoln. The pioneer establishment was that of James Sweet & Brock, dating from 1868. It was built in the southwest corner of the Sweet block, the first block built on the plat of Lincoln. In 1871 it was reorganized into the State Bank of Nebraska. Nelson C. Brock, of this firm, died in Lincoln in March, 1921.

The First National Bank of Lincoln received its charter to do business on February 24, 1871. It was the successor of a private bank founded by Judge Amasa Cobb and J. F. Sudduth, president and cashier. In 1874, John Fitzgerald became president and John R. Clark, cashier. In 1889 a consolidation was effected with the American Exchange National Bank, when S. H. Burnham became president. It later took in the Columbia National. Now with the First Savings Bank and First Trust Company, this concern is one of the strongest of Nebraska. Lincoln has had many banks come and go since the old First National started in. Banks which are no longer on the active list are: State National, 1872; Lincoln National, 1882, consolidated in 1892 into First National; Marsh Brothers & Mosher banking house was a leading factor in the defalcation of Joseph Bartley, state-treasurer, and the president of this institution landed in the Federal Penitentiary as a cure for his style of banking; Lancaster County Bank, 1877; Union Savings Bank, 1886; Nebraska Savings, 1886; German National, 1886; Industrial Savings, 1891. On the other hand, another group of banks have started in Lincoln that are splendid institutions. The City National began in 1899; National Bank of Commerce, in 1902; Central National in 1907; Nebraska State Bank, 1911; Continental State, formerly German-American, 1909; Lincoln State, 1913, and American State, 1917.

Beatrice. Smith Brothers Bank commenced business in September, 1872, in a small way. Their successor, the First National Bank, was chartered and commenced business in April, 1877. Hon. A. S. Paddock was director in this bank. The Gage County Bank, organized in 1881, was an outgrowth of the private banking business of William Lamb, opened August 1, 1879.

Blair. The private banking business of A. Castetter was opened in 1869. Francis M. Castetter, a son, was manager after 1890, and after his father's death, also president. F. H. Claridge has been president of this bank in recent years, and

continued in charge until the sensational failure of this institution in February, 1921, in probably the most stupendous bank failure in many years of Nebraska banking history.

Brownville. The first bank at Brownville has already been spoken of. S. H. Riddle was president and Alexander Hallam cashier. This bank, connected with the Nemaha Valley issue, went down in the storm of 1857. B. F. Lushbaugh and John L. Carson established a private banking house, as Lushbaugh & Carson, January 14, 1857, and this withstood the storms of territorial finance until August 28, 1871, it was succeeded by the newly organized First National Bank of Brownville, of which John L. Carson was the first president. The State Bank of Brownville was organized under state law, October 1, 1870.

Columbus. In July, 1871, Leander Gerrard and Julius A. Reed opened a bank on the north side of town. In May, 1874, Abner Turner and Geo. W. Hulst opened another on the south side. The two banks organized under the name of Columbus State Bank July 28, 1875. The next bank in Columbus was a private bank of Anderson & Reen in 1880.

Crete. The State Bank of Nebraska was organized in Crete in 1872, with Colonel Doane, John Fitzgerald and John R. Clark as incorporators. This was the first bank organized in Saline County, and its first competitor in Crete was in 1879, when the banking company composed of John L. Tidball and Walter Scott started in, and this institution became the Citizens Bank in 1881. The Saline County Bank was organized at Wilber in March, 1878; the Blue Valley Bank there in 1881.

Fairbury. Thomas Harbine's Bank started in 1874 and was the first and in fact the only bank in Jefferson County for some time.

Fremont. E. H. Rogers & Co. established a private bank in July, 1867. In April, 1872, the First National Bank was formed with Theron Nye as president, and E. H. Rogers as cashier. Hopkins & Millard's bank, originally Wilson & Hopkins, starting in 1871, eventually became the Fremont National. George W. E. Dorsey's bank began in December, 1879, and Richard & Keene's private bank (L. D. Richards and L. M. Keene) opened in 1882.

Grand Island. The pioneer financial institution of Hall County was the old State Central Bank organized in 1871 by Henry A. Koenig, later state treasurer. The Citizens National started in 1887 and the Security National in 1889. These three banks all went under during the trying times of the '90s. But the Grand Island National, an outgrowth of the Grand Island Banking Company, organized in 1879, and the First National, organized as such in 1882, from the private bank of C. F. Bentley, started in 1880, have remained and grown during the forty years elapsing.

Kearney. The oldest bank in Kearney was that of L. R. More, established in 1873. The Buffalo County Bank was organized in 1879 to take the place of its predecessor, the Kearney Bank, which failed that year.

Madison. Barnes-Tyrrell, bankers, opened in 1871. F. W. Barnes of this firm was a pioneer of Madison, as he laid out the town in 1870.

Norfolk. J. and C. P. Mathewson opened a bank in 1872 in a small frame building. In 1878 C. P. Mathewson became sole proprietor of that business, and this institution later became the Norfolk National Bank. The next banks to start

were the Norfolk Bank, opened by Burrows & Egbert, January 18, 1882, and the Norfolk City Bank, opened February 15, 1882, by I. P. Donaldson & Co.

Pawnee City. The State Bank of Nebraska was established July 26, 1872. It was reorganized later as the Farmers State Bank, and still later as the First National Bank. But as the immediate successor of the Farmers State Bank in 1881, the private banking house of Joy, Eckman & David came in.

Plattsmouth. The first bank in Plattsmouth was that of Tootle & Hanna, opened in 1859; John R. Clark became a partner in 1866, and the firm remained Tootle, Hanna & Clark until 1872, when the First National Bank was organized, with John R. Fitzgerald as president, C. H. Parmalee vice president, John R. Clark cashier, E. G. Dovey and R. G. Cushing and others as directors. This list presents names very prominent in banking and commercial circles in Nebraska.

Schuyler. F. E. Frye & Co., the first bankers here, could not survive the storm of 1873. In March, 1874, Sumner, Smith & Co. established a bank. In 1881 it became the Farmers Bank.

Tecumseh. The first banks in Tecumseh were the private house of Russell, Holmes & Co. (W. H. Russell and C. A. Holmes), established in 1871 and about twenty years later becoming the Tecumseh National Bank, and the Farmers Bank, started in 1880.

West Point. Bruner's Bank was organized in 1871, by Bruner, Neligh & Kipp. In 1872 it became Bruner & Kipp, and in 1874 became Uriah Bruner's Bank. The next bank was the Elkhorn Valley Bank established in 1875.

York. William McWhister founded a bank in 1875 which became the Commercial State Bank after Sayre & Atkins had operated it a short time. The First National of York was incorporated July 1, 1882.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

One of the peculiarly characteristic achievements of Nebraska's financial history is the part played in her upbuilding by the many building and loan associations organized in the state under the peculiarly encouraging and favorable laws adopted for the purpose of aiding in home building. Hon. Charles F. Bentley of Grand Island, Neb., served in 1907 as president of the National Association of Building and Loan Companies, and with other Nebraska financiers early saw the need of protecting the small borrower and investor from the greed and unsafe methods of many so-called national concerns that had sprung up around the country.

Secretary Hart of the state department of trade and commerce is distributing the annual report of the building and loan associations of the state. The pamphlet contains a statement of the condition of each of the seventy-four associations in the state, together with a summary of the combined report. Mr. Hart speaks in high terms of their management.

The first building and loan associations in the state were fostered under a law passed in the early history of the state, and for the last twenty-eight years they have remained rather constant in number. There are now seventy-four, whereas in 1892 there were seventy-one. The largest number was eighty-six, in 1894, and the lowest was in 1902, when it was forty-eight.

The growth in total assets, however, has been tremendous, nearly twenty-six times as much as in 1892, when they were three millions. During the last year the increase

was twelve millions. Two were granted certificates during the year, the Home at Fairbury and the Globe at Columbus. The number of shares has risen from 45,000 in 1892 to 1,917,000 at the present time.

Associations are now located in the following towns and cities: Albion, Alliance, Auburn, Aurora, Beatrice (3), Blair, Bloomfield, Cambridge, Central City, Clay Center, Columbus (3), Crete, David City, Fairbury (2), Falls City, Fremont (2), Grand Island, Hartington, Hastings, Havelock, Holdrege, Hooper, Humboldt, Kearney, Laurel, Lincoln (9), Madison, McCook, Nebraska City, Nelson, Newman Grove (2), Norfolk (2), North Loup, North Platte, Omaha (9), Ord, Plattsmouth (2), Seward, Sidney, Superior, Tecumseh, Trenton, University Place, Valentine, Wahoo, Wilber, Wood River, Wymore, York.

The nine Lincoln associations have assets totaling around twelve million dollars, while the nine in Omaha have assets of about fifty millions. Those with more than a million assets in the state are the State of Beatrice, with \$3,023,000; the Nebraska State of Fremont, with nearly three millions; the Equitable of Grand Island, with \$1,230,000; the Nebraska Central of Lincoln, with \$5,512,000; the Union of Lincoln, with \$1,422,000; the Norfolk, with \$1,239,000; the Mutual of North Platte, with \$1,329,000; the Bankers of Omaha, with \$1,032,000; the Commercial of Omaha, \$1,302,000; the Conservative of Omaha, with \$17,259,000; the Nebraska of Omaha, with \$1,749,000; the Occidental of Omaha, with \$9,013,000; the Omaha, with \$16,943,000. Outside of Lincoln and Omaha the total assets are fifteen millions.

Secretary Hart says: "This report shows that practically the same prosperity shown in the 1919 report has continued throughout the year just closed and the increases in receipts and expenditures have again shown a 25 per cent gain and the total assets and liabilities have increased 18 per cent or \$12,171,277.84.

"Loans are negotiated only on real estate security or assignment of installment certificates of stock and then only for a conservative margin of the appraised value. This report shows that the loans on real estate averages 48 per cent of the appraised value of the security compared with 53 per cent in 1919. With the return of normal building conditions and the urgent housing conditions now existing, the future activities of these associations will no doubt show greater activity than heretofore. Nebraska is justified in her feeling of pride in being the home of some of the largest and most efficiently managed associations in existence anywhere."

Receipts for the year included twenty-five millions of dues paid; ten millions of stock paid up; mortgage payments of sixteen millions; a million and a half of stock loan payments and over four millions interest payments. The total receipts were \$74,741,388.36. Over thirty-one million was invested in mortgage loans; withdrawals totaled twenty-five millions; salaries and commissions, \$645,000; Liberty Bonds, \$911,000.

CHAPTER XII

THE BENCH AND BAR OF NEBRASKA

THE STATE SUPREME COURT—THE DISTRICT BENCH OF NEBRASKA—LEADERS OF THE BAR OF NEBRASKA—THE EARLY BAR OF THE STATE (TAKEN BY ALL LARGER COUNTY SEATS, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)—OMAHA—LINCOLN—OTHER TOWNS—MORRILL COUNTY BAR IN THE WORLD WAR.

This chapter can very appropriately be opened with a historical survey of the State Supreme Court, the highest unit in the state's judicial and legal system. Then a review of the district bench and finally a brief review of the character and make-up of the practicing bar of the state.

THE STATE SUPREME COURT

When the state was first formed, its Supreme Court consisted of three judges, who also performed the functions of district judges until 1875. In doing this they traveled thousands of miles annually in the days when railroad trains were few and horseback or buckboard were the means of conveyance to most of the county seats. In fifty-three years of its existence, the Nebraska State Supreme Court has had but twenty-six members. Seven of these are serving at the present time. But three of the nineteen ex-judges are living at this time, all in Nebraska; Fawcett is practicing in Lincoln; Sullivan at Omaha and Norval at Seward.

Of the sixteen deceased ex-justices all were residents of Nebraska at the time of their death, Holcomb being the only one who ever left the state even for a time to live, and he was in Washington State at his daughter's. Although no native son, until the latest member, Judge L. A. Flansburg, was ever elevated to her high bench, six or seven of her judges were first admitted to practice in the court of Nebraska, several others practiced less than one year in some other state before locating in Nebraska, and only three or four of the twenty-six judges were past thirty years of age when they came to Nebraska. Not only have her jurists been essentially Nebraskan in their legal careers, but every member except one was born in the United States and he came to Nebraska in boyhood. New York was the native state of Nebraska's first three judges, George B. Lake, Oliver P. Mason and Lorenzo Crounse; her justice of longest service, Samuel Maxwell, and her present chief justice, Andrew M. Morrissey. Illinois was the birthplace of six justices: T. L. Norval (1890-1902), Manoah B. Reese (served 1884-1890 and 1908-1915), Samuel H. Sedgwick (1903-1909 and 1911-1920), John J. Sullivan (1898-1904, and 1908 for one day when he resigned), Jesse L. Root (1908-1912), and Chester H. Aldrich (present member since 1918). From Pennsylvania hailed Judges Daniel Gantt (1873-1878, died in office), A. M. Post (1892-1898), W. B.

Rose (member since 1908), and Conrad Hollenbeck (1915). From Ohio came Judges T. O. C. Harrison (1894-1900), John B. Barnes (1904-1917), and Francis G. Hamer (1912-1918). Indiana furnished Justices Amasa Cobb (1878-1892) and Silas A. Holcomb (1900-1906); Wisconsin, Justice Jacob Fawcett, (1908-1917); Iowa, Judges A. J. Cornish (1917-1920) and George A. Day (member in 1920), and Missouri, Judge Dean (1908-1910 and 1917 to date) and Judge Flansburg, member in 1920 born at Alma, Nebraska, while Judge Letton (1903 to date) first saw the light in the heathered hills of Scotland.

Judge Wm. A. Little was elected in 1866 but died before he qualified. Of Nebraska's first five judges, Lake, Crounse, Mason, Gantt and Maxwell, all had served as members of territorial legislatures, and all except Gantt in from one to three constitutional conventions, so it may truly be said of those founders of this court that they not only founded Nebraska's jurisprudence, but also assisted in laying the foundation of the state, in both enacting and administering her laws. Judge Crounse was only thirty-two years of age when placed on this bench, and later he served as assistant secretary of the treasury under President Harrison, and as governor of the state in 1892-1893. Two other judges have served as governor of the state, Silas A. Holcomb, who also served in his declining years as member of the State Board of Control until his death, and Chester H. Aldrich, a present member of the court. Judge Lake served sixteen years on the court; Cobb, fourteen and Maxwell, the longest term of twenty-two years. He also served in Congress later, and was the author of several works on practice, still standard with the Nebraska Bar. Judge Reese was the first chief justice after the rotation, every two years changing, was abolished, and Judge Hollenbeck the first member elected on the nonpartisan ticket. Those judges who died while in office as members of the court have been, Gantt, Hollenbeck, Hamer, Sedgwick and Cornish. The present members are Andrew M. Morrissey (formerly of Valentine), chief justice, who was re-elected in 1920 to serve until 1927; Charles B. Letton, formerly of Fairbury, term expires 1925; William B. Rose, Lincoln, 1925; James R. Dean, Broken Bow, 1923; Chester H. Aldrich, formerly of David City, 1925; George A. Day, Omaha, 1923, and Leonard A. Flansburg, Lincoln, 1923.

At three periods in its history the Supreme Court has had a Supreme Court commission, and many of these commissioners have, since their service to this court, attained notable records in other fields. The first commission, which served from 1893 to 1899, were Robert Ryan, John M. Ragan and Frank Irvine, who later became a member of the New York Public Utilities Commission; on the second commission, from 1901 to 1902, George A. Day, for seventeen years district judge in Douglas County and now a member of the Supreme Court; Samuel H. Sedgwick, for fifteen years a member of this court, and Roscoe Pound, dean of Harvard Law School; from 1902 to 1903, Charles S. Lohingier, now of the U. S. Court of China, and John B. Barnes, who went onto the court in 1904, and Charles B. Letton, 1902 to 1906, who also went onto the court; 1901 to 1904, William G. Hastings, for past ten years dean of the University of Nebraska Law School, John S. Kirkpatrick, now of Kansas City, Mo., and I. L. Albert of Columbus; 1901 to 1906, Willis D. Oldham, of Kearney; 1901 to 1907, John H. Ames; 1901 to 1909, Edward Duffie; 1904 to 1906, Jacob Fawcett, later on the court; 1905 to 1909, N. D. Jackson; 1906 to 1909, Ambrose C. Epperson of Clay Center; 1907 to 1909, Edward E. Good and Elisha C. Calkins; and 1908 to 1909, Jesse L.

Root; and on the third commission, from 1915 to 1919, William C. Parriott of Auburn, lately of War Department Court in Washington, D. C., Fred O. McGirr, of Beatrice, and ex-Atty.-Gen. Grant G. Martin; and from 1919 to date, Leonard A. Flansburg, who succeeded Judge Cornish on the court, George W. Tibbetts of Hastings, and Judge W. C. Dorsey of Bloomington, and succeeding Judge Flansburg in 1920, W. M. Cain of Fremont.

THE BAR OF NEBRASKA

The Bar of Nebraska presents so many worthy names that to compile a history of the achievements of the lawyers of this state the compiler would really need a volume, instead of the short space of a chapter.

The roster of United States senators, congressmen and state officials already given in this work presents the names of many great lawyers of Nebraska, who after they had struggled years to build up a practice that would yield a competence and educate their growing families, or care for loved ones, if they had never married, were willing to undertake public service at the low rates of compensation which this state could afford through the pioneering days and the hard times of the nineties. It is only with the new constitution of 1920 that Nebraska has reached the point where she felt equal to paying public salaries in keeping with the public service she has received in the past and will continue to receive in the future from the class of citizens her electorate can choose its officers from.

THE DISTRICT BENCH OF NEBRASKA

While there is great honor to the exalted task of judge of the Supreme Court, it must be remembered it is no small undertaking to call upon any man to sit in judgment upon his neighbors, fellow citizens of communities where he has been acquainted for many years, to listen to the pleas of lawyers with whom he has practiced, in many instances, since his advent at the bar with his treasured sheepskin, and pass upon the rights of former clients or business associates. The review of the Supreme Court shows that a goodly number of Nebraska's district judges have been elevated to her supreme bench, and more would be if there were room. The Constitutional Convention of 1920 has recognized the ability of the regular trial judge to undertake even the functions of the higher court, and adopting the system of the federal bench, has provided that hereafter the chief justice of the Supreme Court may call upon the district judges to sit in the review of cases and assist the Supreme Court in its work.

Until 1875 the trial of cases in the district courts was carried on by the members of the Supreme Court, so the roster of district judges until that date coincides with the list of supreme judges.

In 1875 the state was divided into six districts, and the first set of district judges elected were, according to the districts. 1. A. J. Weaver, Falls City; 2. Stephen B. Pound, Lincoln; 3. J. W. Savage, Omaha; 4. George W. Post, York; 5. William Gaslin, Jr., Kearney; 6. Thomas L. Griffey, Dakota County, whose election was successfully contested by E. K. Valentine, who was elected to Congress in 1878 and succeeded by John B. Barnes, of Ponca. These six continued by reelection in 1879, except A. M. Post of Columbus succeeded his brother, Judge Post of York.

Six judges appointed for new districts were: new 5th district, William H. Morris, Crete; 6th, T. L. Norval, Seward; 9th, Fayette B. Tiffany, Albion; 10th, Samuel L. Savidge, Kearney; Eleazer Wakeley and James Neville, addition in Omaha. Samuel P. Davidson of Tecumseh took the place of Judge Pound, elected to Congress in 1882. In the next four years, two sets of changes were made and the number of judges brought to twenty-three in twelve districts. Those elected in 1883 were: 1. J. H. Broady, Beatrice; Thos. Appelget, Tecumseh; 2d, S. B. Pound, Lincoln; M. L. Hayward; Nebraska City; J. L. Mitchell of Nebraska City appointed in 1885, and S. M. Chapman of Plattsmouth elected in 1886 and also Allen W. Field of Lincoln; 3d, E. Wakeley and James Neville re-elected; L. A. Groff, appointed, 1887, and M. R. Hopewell, Tekamah, appointed 1887; 4th, A. M. Post, Columbus, and Wm. Marshall, appointed 1887; 5th, Morris; 6th, Norval; 8th, Gaslin; 9th, Tiffany, re-elected. In the 7th, J. C. Crawford of West Point and Isaac Powers, Jr., of Norfolk, appointed in 1887; T. O. C. Harrison, Grand Island, appointed 1887; 10th district, Francis G. Hamer, Kearney; 11th, J. E. Cochran, McCook, and 12th, M. P. Kinkaid, O'Neill, appointed 1887. The election of 1887 brought only three new judges to the district bench, George W. Doane and Joseph R. Clarkson, of Omaha; W. F. Norris of Ponca in the Sixth, vice Judge Crawford; and A. H. Church appointed to second seat in 10th district in 1889. In 1891 the state was divided into fifteen judicial districts with twenty-eight judges, and several new judges were appointed: Charles L. Hall and A. S. Tibbetts, of Lincoln in the second; H. J. Davis, Lee S. Estelle, A. N. Ferguson, and Frank Irvine in the third district; Edward Bates of York, and Matt Miller of David City in the new 5th; E. M. Coffin of Ord in the new 11th, and A. W. Crites of Chadron in the 15th.

Before proceeding further it would not be inappropriate to review this list and recount the later achievements of some of these pioneer trial judges of the state. Some of them were commissioned to go to Washington and represent Nebraska in the halls of Congress; nobably Judges Weaver, Valentine, and Kinkaid. Others were elevated to the supreme bench: Judges A. M. Post, T. L. Norval, T. O. C. Harrison, Francis G. Hamer; and Frank Irvine to the commission.

The election of 1891 continued Judges Chapman, Tibbetts, Hopewell, Ferguson, Davis, Bates, Norris, Harrison and Kinkaid. It brought onto the district bench the following judges, a list from which were to spring a number of men destined to achieve even greater honors: 1st, H. A. Babcock and J. E. Bush of Beatrice; 3d, Jesse B. Strode, elected to Congress in 1894; Charles L. Hall, Lincoln; A. S. Tibbetts, Lincoln, and Ed. P. Holmes, Lincoln; 4th, W. C. Walton of Blair and from Omaha, Chas. Ogden, W. W. Keysor, R. C. Scott, G. W. Ambrose, J. H. Blair and E. R. Diffie; 5th, Robert Wheeler of Osceola; 6th, J. J. Sullivan of Columbus; 7th, W. G. Hastings, of Wilber; 9th, N. D. Jackson of Neligh, J. S. Robinson of Madison; 10th, F. B. Beall, Alma; 11th, John R. Thompson of Grand Island; 12th, Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow; 13th, William Neville, North Platte, and H. M. Sinclair of Kearney; 14th, D. T. Welty of Cambridge, and 15th, Alfred Bartow of Chadron. The election of 1895 brought to the district bench, 1st, C. B. Letton of Fairbury and J. S. Stull, Auburn; 2d, B. S. Ramsey, Plattsmouth; 3d, A. J. Cornish of Lincoln, who remained on the district bench for twenty-one years when he was elevated to the supreme bench where he remained until his death in 1920. Lincoln Frost of Lincoln was elected in 1897. In Omaha

new judges were B. S. Baker, Chas. T. Dickinson, Jacob Fawcett, Clinton N. Powell and W. W. Slabaugh. 5th, S. H. Sedgwick of York; 6th district, in the following four years, I. L. Albert, Columbus, James A. Grimison of Schuyler and Conrad Hollenbeck of Fremont served short periods. Judge Hollenbeck remained on the district bench twenty-one years, when he was elected chief justice of the Supreme Court and died two weeks after taking the office. 8th, R. E. Evans of Dakota City and W. V. Allen of Madison, who when elected to the United States Senate was succeeded by Douglas Cones; 11th, A. A. Kendall, St. Paul; 12th, H. M. Sullivan of Broken Bow and W. A. Greene of Kearney; 13th, H. M. Grimes of North Platte, who in 1920 was elected to a seventh four year term; 14th, G. W. Norris, Beaver City, later of McCook, and in the 15th, William H. Westover of Rushville, who in 1920 was also elected to a seventh four-year term. The four year period following the election of 1899 brought a few new members to the district bench; 2d district, Paul Jessen, Nebraska City; 4th, Irving F. Baxter of Omaha and Lee S. Estelle returned to the bench where he remained until his death in 1920, vice Judges Scott and Powell; George A. Day, now a member of the Supreme Court, where he was appointed after seventeen years of service on the district bench of Douglas County came on in 1902 as did Guy R. C. Read. In other districts judges who came on in 1899 election were: 5. B. F. Good of Wahoo and S. H. Sornberger of York; 7th, C. W. Stubbs of Superior; 8th, Guy T. Graves of Pender, who is still serving and was re-elected to another term in 1920; 9th, J. F. Boyd of Oakdale elected November 6, 1900, to fill vacancy; 10th, E. B. Adams of Minden came on by election of 1899, as did, in 11th, C. A. Munn of Ord and James N. Paul of St. Paul, who remained for sixteen years on the bench; 12th, Charles B. Gutterson of Broken Bow succeeded H. M. Sullivan; R. C. Orr of Hayes Center served with Judge Norris in the 14th, and J. J. Harrington of O'Neill came on for twelve years' service in the old 15th district. The election of 1903 and the four ensuing years brought a few changes. In the first district A. H. Babcock of Beatrice and W. H. Kelligar of Auburn succeeded Judges Letton and Stull. Judge Letton went onto the Supreme Court commission and then onto the supreme bench, where in 1920 he is still serving. Judge John B. Raper of Pawnee City was elected in 1906 to fill vacancy, and has been serving continuously since and in 1920 was re-elected for another term of four years. In the 3d Willis G. Sears of Tekamah and A. C. Troup came on and in 1920 are still serving, and reelected for further service; William A. Redick of Omaha came on and has served ever since except two years; A. L. Sutton of Omaha came on and stayed until he resigned to run for governor in 1916, and Howard Kennedy, Jr., remained until he resigned to accept a seat on the New Board of Control of Public Institutions. In the 5th Arthur J. Evans of David City came on for four years; 6th, Jas. G. Reeder of Columbus; 7th, Leslie G. Hurd of Harvard, who served until 1917; 9th, with Judge Boyd came Anson A. Welch of Wayne, who in 1920 is still serving and re-elected for further service; 10th, G. L. Adams of Minden for four years; and to sit with Judge Paul of the 11th, James R. Hanna of Greeley, who remained on the bench in this district until his death seventeen years later, in June, 1920; and on the 12th Judge B. O. Hostetler of Kearney, who after serving seventeen years, was re-elected in 1920 for another term.

The election of 1907 brought a very few changes in the membership of the state's district bench. L. M. Pemberton of Beatrice came on in the first to serve until January, 1921; 2d, Harvey D. Travis of Plattsmouth, who remained until his death in 1914; in the third, Judge Willard E. Stewart, who is still serving and was in 1920 re-elected, and who succeeded Judge Holmes; in the fourth the personnel remained, Day, Estelle, Kennedy, Redick, Sears, Sutton and Troup; in the fifth, with Judge Good sat George F. Corcoran, who in 1920 was re-elected for another term; in the sixth, Judge Hollenbeck's working mate became George H. Thomas of Schuyler, and later Columbus, who remained on the bench until ill health in 1920 forced his resignation; in the tenth, Judge Harry S. Dungan of Hastings came on, to remain until 1921, having made the race for Congress in 1920 against the enormous republican landslide. In 1911 in the new 16th district, Ralph W. Hobart of Mitchell was appointed, and he is still serving, but in what is now the 17th district, and in 1920 was re-elected without opposition.

The election of 1911 brought few changes, County Judge P. James Cosgrove in Lincoln displacing Judge Frost; County Judge Charles Leslie in Omaha displacing Judge Redick; E. E. Good in the Fifth still serving in 1920; in the fourteenth Ernest B. Perry of Cambridge coming on, to remain until his resignation in 1919; in the 15th R. R. Dickson displacing Judge Harrington. Adding the 17th and 18th district placed Judge Hobart and Judge Pemberton into those districts.

In the following five year periods Governors John H. Morehead and Keith Neville had the opportunity to appoint several district judges, namely: James T. Begley in the second; vice Judge Travis, deceased; Judge Fred Shepherd in 1916 won the seat of Judge Cornish, elected to supreme bench, and Judge Leonard A. Flansburg to succeed Judge Cosgrove, who became Judge Advocate in the Army; James P. English of Omaha, vice Judge Kennedy, resigned, and upon Judge English's death Arthur C. Wakeley of Omaha, son of Eleazer Wakeley of territorial and early statehood days; William A. Redick went back on the bench vice Judge Sutton resigned; F. W. Button of Fremont vice Judge Hollenbeck, elected chief justice of Supreme Court; Andrew R. Oleson of Wisner, new place created in 9th district.

The election of 1917 brought on hardly any change in the district bench. In the 7th district Ralph D. Brown of Crete, vice Judge Hurd, and Bayard H. Paine of Grand Island, vice Judge Paul, who did not seek re-election, and ex-U. S. Senator William V. Allen of Madison succeeded Judge Oleson in the Ninth. A few changes ensued in the succeeding four years; Judge Flansburg of Lincoln was elevated to the Supreme Court commission, and Judge Elliot J. Clements appointed in his place; Judge William C. Dorsey of Bloomington, who had been appointed to a new place in the tenth district and William M. Morning to a new seat in Lancaster County. Judge Dorsey was also elevated to the Supreme Court commission and W. A. Dilworth of Holdrege appointed in his place. When Judge Day succeeded to Judge Sedgwick's seat, upon the latter's death, Charles A. Goss of Omaha was appointed by Governor McKelvie; Judge A. M. Post of Columbus was appointed in the sixth vice Judge Thomas, resigned; C. E. Eldred, McCook, vice Judge Perry, resigned, and Judge Edwin P. Clements of Ord in the eleventh vice Judge Hanna, deceased. The election of 1920 brought about the defeat of Judge Goss in Omaha, where James M. Fitzgerald and L. B. Day were elected to

the seats of Judges Goss and Estelle, who died just before election; and General Leonard W. Colby of Beatrice defeated Judge Pemberton.

So the roster of judges beginning January, 1921, will be: 1. J. B. Raper, Pawnee City; 2. J. T. Begley, Papillion; 3. W. E. Stewart; W. M. Morning, Fred Shepherd and E. J. Clements of Lincoln; 4. W. G. Sears, Tekamah; A. C. Troup, W. A. Redick, Charles Leslie, A. C. Wakeley, J. M. Fitzgerald and L. B. Day, Omaha, 5. E. E. Good, Wahoo, and Geo. F. Corcoran, York; 6. F. W. But-ton, Fremont; A. M. Post, Columbus; 7. R. D. Brown, Crete; 8. Guy T. Graves, Pender; 9. A. A. Welch, Wayne; W. V. Allen, Madison; 10. W. A. Dilworth, Holdrege and Lewis H. Blackledge of Red Cloud, elected to Judge Dungan's seat; 11. Bayard H. Paine, Grand Island, and Edwin P. Clements, Ord; 12. B. O. Hostetler, Kearney; 13. H. M. Grimes, North Platte; 14. C. E. Eldred, McCook; 15. R. R. Dickson, O'Neill; 16. W. H. Westover, Rushville; 17. R. W. Hobart, Gering, and 18. L. W. Colby, Beatrice.

The old district attorney system from 1868 to 1885, when the law was changed to provide for county attorneys in each county, brought into public service over a district which allowed their ability to become recognized a group of Nebraska lawyers who deserve some mention. Those who served as district attorneys, with the number of terms and year of election, were: 1868, O. B. Hewitt, 2; John C. Cowin, Omaha, 2; E. F. Gray, Fremont, 2; 1872, A. J. Weaver, Falls City, 1; William J. Connell, Omaha, 3; Melville B. Hoxie, 3; 1874, C. J. Dilworth, father of present District Judge Dilworth, also an attorney-general of the state, 1; 1875, J. W. Eller, Omaha, 1; J. H. Broady, Lincoln, 1; John B. Barnes, Ponca, 2; 1876, J. P. Maule, Fairmont, 2; George S. Smith, Plattsmouth, 1; E. H. Buckingham of Omaha, succeeded by C. J. Greene of Omaha, 1; Manoah B. Reese, Wahoo, 3; 1878, John C. Watson, Nebraska City, 2; A. N. Ferguson, Omaha, 1; T. D. Scofield, Hastings, 1; C. C. McNish, Wisner, 2; 1880, Wm. H. Morris, Crete, 1; N. J. Burnham, Nebraska City; V. Bierbower, Sidney, 1. The election of 1882 brought in an entirely new set of district attorneys, and also the number of districts had been increased from six to seven and later three more were added. These were, 1st, Robert W. Sabin, Beatrice; 2d, J. B. Strode, Plattsmouth; 3d, Park Godwin, Omaha; 4th, Jacob C. Roberts, David City; 5th, George W. Bemis, Sutton (appointed 1883); 6th, Thomas Darnell, St. Paul; 7th, Wilbur F. Bryant, Ponca; 8th, W. S. Morlan, Arapahoe, later a prominent attorney at McCook; 9th, E. M. Coffin (appointed 1883), and 10th, J. W. Bixler, North Platte. Three of these, Strode, Darnall and Morlan remained over the last election of 1884, and the seven new ones chosen were: 1st, Daniel F. Osgood, Tecumseh; 3d, Lee S. Estelle, Blair; 4th, Wm. Marshall, Fremont; 5th, Manford Savage, Hebron; 7th, Guy R. Wilber, St. Helena; 9th, N. D. Jackson, Neligh, and 10th, H. M. Sinclair, Plum Creek.

LEADERS OF THE BAR

As said in the first of this chapter, a volume rather than a chapter is needed to do justice to any recital of a record of the leaders of the bar throughout the state. But there are a few members of the Nebraska bar with long records of service and practice, who have preferred to remain with their faithful clientele rather than either go upon the bench or seek other political preferment that took

them away from the practice for any extended period. While no doubt some injustice will be unwittingly done in leaving out some most worthy practitioners, in mentioning a scattered selection of a few, the compiler, who is himself a lawyer, admitted ten years ago, cannot withstand the opportunity of paying tribute to some of the leaders of the bars of the various counties in the earlier period of the state's formative career.

Much of the history of any community centers about the laws and the manner in which they are enforced. Civil law goes hand in hand with the first step of civilization into a new territory. The legislator and lawyer therefore make their appearance at the outset. It is not because the compiler, being a lawyer, desires to give undue preference to his own chosen profession that more personality and names of individuals will appear in the following brief review than in the treatment of other professions or lines of human activity in Nebraska, but because history is so largely biographical, and he knows not how else to present the history of this profession. In treating the press, while he would like to have gone into the personal qualifications of editors; in treating the church, talked more of individual ministers; in discoursing on schools, societies and business concerns, given more credit to the individuals in charge and who planned and forced their growth, the result of the newspaper, the church, the school itself stands out more. But the practice and results of a law office depend so much more upon the individual, that one cannot speak of the composite attainments of a "Bar" (a group of lawyers in a certain county) without speaking of at least the foremost leaders in activity and accomplishments.

In the recent World war, this was emphatically impressed upon the general public, when, during the period for preparing and filing questionnaires, almost every judge, court reporter, clerk of district court, sheriff, county clerk, from one to three doctors in a community and every lawyer, gave some of his time, and many devoted from a month to six weeks in December, 1917, and January, 1918, to this task, to the neglect of the entire or major portion of their regular business. In Nebraska in only one instance has a firm of lawyers been attacked for making undue financial charges for this service, and their case is still pending before a referee when these lines are written. In most instances no financial remuneration was asked or charged for this service. Lawyers, ministers, doctors, bankers, and other professional men are asked more than others to participate on the managing committee of practically every civil enterprise that comes up in the community, be it raising money for the band or church, a Red Cross or new hotel drive, or what, and they feel that there are remunerations about their work other than financial, and especial training about the same that imposes upon them the duty to respond.

THE EARLY BAR OF THE STATE

Quite a number of lawyers who practiced in territorial days and in the first quarter-century of the state's own history as a state made reputations that spread far beyond Nebraska's own borders.

Omaha—It will only be possible to call a roll of some of the pioneer lawyers of Omaha, whose names are yet familiar to the people of the city. Experience Estabrook was United States attorney in 1854, and in 1860 was delegate to Congress a short while. His son, Henry D. Estabrook, became general counsel

for the Western Union Telegraph, and just before his death in 1916 was talked of as a candidate for republican presidential nomination. Andrew J. Poppleton came before courts were established in Nebraska, served in the Legislature and as mayor of Omaha, and in 1879 became famous for his participation in the famous habeas corpus case of the Ponca Indians, mentioned elsewhere in this work. With him in that case was associated a man, John L. Webster, who became a leader of the present generation of Nebraska bar and an invaluable contributor to the compilation and preservation of Nebraska history, and who also served as president of the 1875 constitutional convention.

Other great leaders in early Omaha days were Origen D. Richardson, who assisted J. S. Sharp, A. J. Poppleton and others materially in the first revision of Nebraska statutes (1867). He read law with that other legal patriarch, Judge George B. Lake. His son, Lyman D. Richardson, was Douglas County's first registrar of deeds. Silas A. Strickland had a legislative record and military record in the Civil war reaching to a brigadier-generalship, and service as United States district attorney. Clinton Briggs, who had studied with William H. Seward, became mayor of Omaha, county judge, legislator, constitutional convention member and candidate for United States senator. William A. Little was elected first chief justice of Nebraska Supreme Court, but ill health prevented his serving and he died soon after. James M. Woolworth was first city attorney of Omaha, president of American Bar Association, author of a "Handbook on Nebraska" and "The Cathedral in America." John I. Redick served one year as United States judge for New Mexico. Among others were: John R. Meredith, associate of George W. Doane; George I. Gilbert, partner of Judge Lake at one time; George W. Doane, an early judge, whom the compiler remembers seeing often when in law college and admiring greatly; Benjamin E. B. Kennedy; Charles H. Brown; Champion S. Chase, an early mayor and first state attorney-general; Daniel Gantt, an early Supreme Court judge; Jonas Seely; Albert Swartzlander; Cuming and Turk; George H. Roberts; Charles A. Baldwin; Charles F. Manderson, city attorney of Omaha, member of constitutional conventions, United States senator, president of American Bar Association; John M. Thurston, another man who achieved the United States senatorship and national fame.

The second generation of the Omaha bar likewise produced an array of great leaders. John C. Cowin and John L. Webster, who came in 1867 and 1869, in the past twenty years have been real leaders. Timothy J. Mahoney, who died in 1916, was counted by many the greatest pleader of his day before the State Supreme Court. William J. Connell has been a wizard for years in trying cases. Sylvester R. Rush and Constantine J. Smyth have been snatched from Omaha by the Federal Government, as assistant attorney general and chief justice of District of Columbia courts. Ben T. White, Carroll S. Montgomery, Warren Switzler, William R. Kelly, Isaac E. Congdon, Frank S. Howell, Matthew A. Hall, George W. Shields, Francis A. Brogan, Charles J. Greene and Ralph W. Breckenridge, who achieved great reputations in insurance law; John P. Breen, William F. Gurley, Ben S. Baker, H. H. Baldrige, T. W. Blackburn, Byron G. Burbank, Thomas D. Crane, J. E. Kelby, Edmund G. McGilton, Frank H. Gaines, Edson Rich, and E. W. Simeral are a few of the older members of the present generation of lawyers, most of whom are still living and practicing, and some of whom have passed beyond in very recent years.

Lincoln—The pioneer lawyer of the county was John S. Gregory, who practiced here as early as 1864. The roster in 1876 will include most of the early leaders of this bar: John H. Ames, George K. Amory, Newton C. Abbott, L. W. Billingsly, Carlos C. Burr, Erastus E. Brown, Lionel C. Burr, Guy A. Brown, Amasa Cobb, Paren England, Smith B. Galey, D. G. Hull, N. S. Harwood, Robert Knight, Walter J. Lamb, G. M. Lambertson, M. Montgomery, Robert E. Moore, T. M. Marquett, James E. Philpot, Rollo O. Phillips, A. C. Ricketts, Adolphus G. Scott, M. H. Sessions, Samuel J. Tuttle, Charles O. Whedon, Joseph R. Webster, Jeff D. Weston, Joseph Hunter and A. J. Sawyer. So far as the compiler knows only L. C. Burr, R. E. Moore, A. C. Ricketts, S. J. Tuttle and A. J. Sawyer are still living in Lincoln and J. E. Philpot in the western part of the state.

Hoping to be excused from any charge of discrimination in mentioning the living or recently deceased members of the bar, the compiler feels there are a few others, whom he has personally known, who should be also entitled to be credited with a leading part in moulding the legal course of Lancaster County affairs. Geo. A. Adams, John S. Bishop, Elmer J. Burkett, formerly United States senator; Henry H. Wilson, almost every Nebraska lawyer's teacher in law school, sometime in the past thirty years; T. J. Doyle, C. C. Flansburg, father of present Judge Flansburg of the Supreme Court; Allan W. Field, most distinctly a real factor in the history of Lancaster County; E. J. Hainer, Frank M. Hall, Frank H. Woods, Judge Edward P. Holmes, Don L. Love, former mayor of Lincoln; R. S. Mockett, Judge W. M. Morning, Charles O. Whedon, W. B. Comstock, A. J. Sawyer, John M. Stewart, A. S. Tibbetts, and F. M. Tyrrell. In Adams County: R. D. Babcock, John F. Ballinger, Robert A. Batty, James Laird, and Benjamin F. Smith were Hastings lawyers of the seventies; George W. Tibbetts, C. F. Morey, Phillip H. Fuller, J. W. James, F. P. Olstead, W. P. McCreary, J. M. Ragan, J. S. Snider and C. E. Higginbotham have been more recent leaders of this bar.

It will not be possible in the brief space we can take at this time to take every county. The compiler therefore will hurriedly sketch over the state and give honorable mention to a few of the leaders of various local bars, who have been particularly prominent in the past quarter-century, now and then touching upon some of a more pioneer period. Ainsworth—A. W. Scattergood, W. M. Ely, J. C. Tolliver; Albion—James S. Armstrong, Judge F. B. Tiffany in early days, and later period, A. E. Garten, O. M. Needham, H. C. Vail and Frank D. Williams; Alliance—William Mitchell, L. A. Berry, B. F. Gilman, and E. H. Boyd and E. C. Barker of the younger bar; Alma—John Everson, J. G. Thompson and O. E. Shelburn, of the later bar; Auburn—Judge W. H. Kelligar, Judge Stull, Supreme Court Commissioner W. C. Parriott, John S. McCarty, and E. B. Quackenbush of later bar. In very early days at Brownville a coterie of lawyers appeared, none of whom were practicing as late as 1880; D. L. McGary, O. B. Hewett, W. C. Johnson, J. D. N. Thompson, H. P. Buxton, S. Belden, R. L. Dodge, J. B. Weston and J. S. Bedford. Aurora—Early members of prominence in this bar included Thomas Darnall, A. W. Agee, E. J. Hainer, J. H. Smith, W. L. Stark, H. M. Kellogg, J. H. Edmundson, F. M. Coykendall, and later J. H. Grosvernor, C. P. Craft, F. A. Bald, M. F. Stanley, F. E. Edgerton, and C. L. Whitney. Beatrice—Jefferson B. Weston was first resident lawyer of Gage County; Charles C. Coffinberry (C. B. R. E.), a very picturesque pioneer attorney; S. B. Harrington, the first lawyer to maintain an office in Beatrice; Nathan K. Griggs, Hiram P. Webb,

W. H. Ashby, S. C. B. Dean, E. S. Chadwick, Leonard W. Colby, who came in 1873 and in 1920 was elected district judge; W. H. Somers, Alfred Hazlett, A. J. Hale, Frank N. Prout, Thomas F. Burke, later attorney general of Wyoming; N. T. Gadd, for many years past a prominent lawyer of Broken Bow, Custer County; Menzo Terry, R. S. Bibb, J. E. Cobbe, author of numerous Nebraska legal text books and for many years compiler of Nebraska statutes. The more recent Gage County bar presents such names as C. L. Brewster, Hugh J. Dobbs, Fulton Jack, A. H. Kidd, Ernest O. Kretsinger, Samuel Rinaker, Robert W. Sabin, Harry E. Sackett, and Ex-Supreme Court Commissioner F. O. McGirr. Among younger lawyers are John W. Delehant, F. W. Messmore and Walter Vasey. Beaver City—Judge E. B. Perry, John C. Stevens and E. J. Lambe. Blair—From Blair have come Lee S. Estelle, Herman Aye, W. C. Walton, F. S. Howell, and Clark O'Hanlon, E. B. Carrigan and J. C. Eller are still there. Bloomington—From this bar have come Judge W. C. Dorsey and A. H. Byrum. Broken Bow—This bar has produced two supreme judges, Silas A. Holcomb, also governor, and James R. Dean; District Judges Holcomb, Gutterson and H. M. Sullivan; John S. Kirkpatrick of Supreme Court commission; A. R. Humphrey, commissioner of public lands and buildings; N. T. Gadd, A. Morgan, E. E. Squires and A. P. Johnson; and has always been a strong bar, and from three years' experience practicing at this point, this compiler can attest to the excellence of this bar. Burwell—C. I. Bragg, Guy Laverty and E. M. White; Cambridge—Judge E. B. Perry; Central City—This bar has sent forth George W. Ayers, for ten years a mainstay in attorney general's office; John C. Martin, J. Patterson and sons, E. E. Ross; Chadron—A. W. Crites and sons and Allan G. Fisher have graced this bar; Clay Center—J. L., A. C. and C. H. Epperson have helped to build up the Clay County bar; Columbus—A bar with such lawyers as Judge John J. Sullivan, Judge George H. Thomas, Judge I. L. Albert, Judge A. M. Post, and Judge J. G. Reeder raises requirements that force every lawyer who survives in the practice thereat to be a "stemwinder." Crawford—In recent years E. M. Slattery and J. E. Porter have particularly shone. Creighton—With Joseph F. Green, W. A. Merserve and J. H. Berryman to lead, this bar has been good. Crete and Wilber—George H. Hastings, Judge Brown, at Crete, and formerly W. G. Hastings, Bartos Bros., B. V. Kahout and Grimm & Son at Wilber have given Saline County strong legal service. David City—This has always been a good "trial work" bar; with such men as Judge A. J. Evans, Judge (Governor) C. H. Aldrich, L. S. Hastings, Judge Matt Miller, C. M. Skiles, R. C. Roper, A. M. Walling, how could it be otherwise? Fairbury—G. S. Merritt, C. B. Slocumb, W. H. Snell and M. Warren were very early attorneys here. Later came John E. Heasty, W. H. Barnes, F. N. Prout, C. H. Denney, W. J. Moss, E. H. Hinshaw, and John C. Hartigan. Falls City—All the way from Isham Reavis, father of Congressman C. F. Reavis, and Judge A. J. Weaver, father of the president of constitutional convention of 1920, down to J. C. Mullen, the Dorts and other arrivals of past decade, this has been a strong bar. E. Falloon, John Gagnon, R. C. James, A. E. Gantt, J. E. Leyda, A. R. Scott, J. R. Wilheit and John Wiltse have all tried to make this so. Fremont—This is a bar which has furnished both judicial and literary timber. Judge Marshall, Judge Hollenbeck, and Judge Button have proved the first; A. K. Dame has proved the latter, and Frank Dolezal, W. J. Courtright, S. S. Sidner, Allen Johnson, George L. Loomis, J. C. Cook, N. H.

Mapes, A. H. Briggs, E. F. Gray, A. B. Hinman, Waldo Wintersteen, R. J. Stinson, J. E. Daly and F. W. Vaughn have also proved a real "trial" ability for this bar. Fullerton—J. H. Kemp, G. N. Anderson, and W. L. Rose have been lawyers who gained a standing far beyond Nance County. Geneva—C. H. and Frank W. Sloan as well as J. J. Burke, J. R. Waring and John Barsby have reflected credit upon Fillmore County. Grand Island—When the first court was held here in 1868, the entire resident Hall County bar was O. A. Abbott, Sr., and fifty-three years later as these lines are written, this worthy dean of the bar is still in the active practice and trying hard-fought cases, and his two sons have long since been admitted. Other early veterans of this bar were W. H. Platt, George H. Thummell, now of Omaha, T. O. C. Harrison, later district and supreme judge; John D. Hayes; William H. Thompson, the "little giant," now in 1920 both democratic national committeeman and member of the commission planning and building the new state capitol; and his brother, District Judge John R. Thompson, whose court reporter, Bayard H. Paine, is now in 1920 district judge, and was the trial judge in the famous Cole-Grammer case in Howard County in 1918. In the past thirty years Hall County has had a group of able lawyers whose service has been extended to all parts of central and western Nebraska, notably, Gov. O. A. Abbott, Fred W. Ashton, Mayor J. L. Cleary, Willard A. Prince, R. R. Horth, Arthur C. Mayer, Bayard H. Paine, Charles G. Ryan, W. H. Thompson and J. H. Woolley. Greeley—General James H. Barry, George W. Scott and Judge James R. Hanna were giants of this bar twenty years ago, with T. P. Lanigan, who is still actively practicing with his sons, J. M. and T. W. Lanigan; James R. Swain, and T. J. Howard have been active practitioners. Hartington—This bar has offered the state, Wilbur F. Bryant, H. E. Burkett, R. J. Millard, B. Ready, J. C. Robinson and C. H. Whitney. Hebron—Known beyond Thayer County have been J. T. McCuiston, C. L. Richards and M. H. Weiss, especially. Holdrege—This bar has had veteran lawyers such as W. P. Hall, brother of Frank M. Hall of Lincoln; Gus Norberg, G. H. Johnson, A. J. Shafer, S. A. Dravo, Judge W. A. Dilworth, and the present attorney-general, Clarence A. Davis, had started in practice there when elected to that office. Kearney—Very early lawyers in this county were H. C. Andrews, John Barnd, E. C. Calkins, who became a supreme court commissioner and one of the recognized lawyers of Central Nebraska; E. M. Cunningham, James E. Gillespie, Judge Francis G. Hamer, one of the trial wizards of early Nebraska days, and later a district and Supreme Court judge, being a member of the latter court when he died in 1918, and A. H. Connor, his old-time partner; Judge W. L. Greene, considered one of Nebraska's very greatest orators; L. S. Irvin; Samuel L. Savidge. In later years another group of lawyers became prominent at this bar, including Frank E. Beeman, ex-United States Senator Norris Brown, now practicing in Omaha, John N. Dryden, J. M. Easterling, W. H. Hand, N. P. McDonald, Fred A. Nye, John A. Miller, Willis D. Oldham, formerly Supreme Court commissioner and counted one of the best orators of the present generation in Nebraska; Warren Pratt and H. M. Sinclair. Lexington—The list of early lawyers here included A. S. Baldwin, Thomas J. Hewitt, T. L. Warrington, W. A. Stewart, and later on came E. A. Cook, George C. Gillan, T. M. Hewitt, John H. Linderman, D. H. Moulds, N. E. Olsen and John I. Negley. Loup City has been the home of several very well known lawyers, including R. J. Nightingale and son, who have moved to the Pacific Coast,

Judge Aaron Wall, one of the most eloquent of Nebraska lawyers in the court room, J. S. Pedlar, R. H. Mathew and R. P. Starr. McCook—This bar has been favored with such talent as U. S. Senator G. W. Norris, W. S. Morlan, F. L. Wolfe, C. D. Ritchie, Judge C. E. Eldred and C. H. Boyle. Madison, is another bar that has sent forth men who became well known, the dean of this bar being Judge W. V. Allen; but here have also practiced M. B. Foster, M. S. McDuffee, Willis E. Reed, James Nichols and W. L. Dowling, while in the same county at Norfolk have been Judge J. B. Barnes, H. F. Barnhardt, Burt Mapes, who died a few weeks ago in 1920, Jack and Arthur Koenigstein, M. C. Hazen, M. D. Tyler, Charles H. Kelsey and Webb Rice, who came over from Neligh. North Platte has had an exceptionally strong bar. Some of its leaders have been J. G. Beeler, J. S. Hoagland and son W. V., Albert Muldoon. Minden—Here have been L. W. Hague, C. P. Anderberry, Charles A. Chappell, Milo D. King, Lewis C. Paulsen, J. L. McPheeley and J. H. Robb. Nebraska City—This town being one of the very oldest has had practically an older and a newer bar. Among the very early lawyers were S. H. Calhoun, A. S. Cole, George W. Covell, J. T. Greenwood, Monroe L. Hayward, who was elected to the United States Senate just before his death, and whose son, William Hayward, has achieved national fame in recent years; John F. Kinney, a judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa, before his career of prominence in Nebraska began; Edwin J. Murfin, C. W. Seymour, S. J. and T. B. Stevenson, Edwin F. Warren; later came Paul Jessen, D. W. Livingston, A. P. and W. F. Moran, W. H. Pitzer, A. C. Bischoff, W. W. Wilson, and John C. Watson. O'Neill has been the home of one of Nebraska's greatest trial wizards, M. F. Harrington, and his brother, Judge J. J. Harrington, Judge Dickson, Arthur F. Mullen, Congressman M. P. Kinkaid, J. A. Donahoe; and O'Neill within the past fifteen years has probably sent more of her sons to the Nebraska law schools than any town of her size in the state. Ord has furnished a number of lawyers whose prestige reached beyond Valley County. Three of this number have become district judge, Charles A. Munn and E. P. Clements and E. J. Clements, brothers, both appointed to that honor in 1920; A. Norman and A. M. Robbins were well known trial lawyers; Claude A. Davis and his brother Clarence M. Davis are now the senior lawyers of this bar, and recently the sons of two of the old veterans of the bar started in practice together. George A. Munn, Ralph G. Norman, and E. L. Vogeltanz took over Judge Clements' office. The leading firms at Osceola in the past two decades have been King and Bittner, Mills, Beebe & Mills, and Ball & Johnston. Pawnee City is another point that had a very early bar and a more recent one. Judge J. B. Raper, Supreme Court Clerk Harry C. Lindsay, R. W. and A. I. Story, and F. A. Barton have been leaders of this bar. Pender has had among other lawyers Judge Graves, Howard Saxton and Thomas L. Sloan, an Indian, who built up a national reputation in his defense of his race and has now moved to Washington, D. C., to devote his attention exclusively to that aim. Plattsmouth is one of those points settled so long ago, it requires two stories to tell of its bar, first, the pioneers among whom numbered J. H. Brown, who in 1855 was the first lawyer to locate here. A. H. Townsend came in 1856, Willett Pottenger and T. M. Marquette, later of Lincoln, came in 1856 also, and S. H. Elbert next. Maxwell & Chapman began business in 1865, the former being Samuel Maxwell, who served the longest of any member of the Nebraska Supreme Court and was author of a series of legal text books still

in daily use by the Nebraska bar and never yet displaced as standard authorities. Beeson and McLennan came soon after that. In 1882 there were nineteen attorneys practicing in Plattsmouth; and in 1909 there were eighteen listed. Among the later lawyers of the Cass County bar appears the names of Byron Clark, now Nebraska counsel for the Burlington Railroad system; D. O. Dwyer, Matt Gering, who has gained a great reputation both as a trial lawyer and an orator; B. S. Ramsey and his son W. C. Ramsey, now in Omaha; C. A. Rawls, James Robertson, former Supreme Court judge Jesse L. Root, also of the Burlington Railroad staff now; A. L. Tidd, Judge H. D. Travis, and R. B. Windham, also one of the foremost active spirits in the preservation of Nebraska annals. Ponca was the early field of Judge John B. Barnes, W. E. Gantt, Judge W. F. Norris, and in later years J. J. McCarthy, W. D. McCarthy, C. A. Kingsbury and John V. Pearson. Red Cloud has had several lawyers of prestige beyond Webster County, Judge L. H. Blackledge, Bernard McNeny, one of the foremost trial lawyers of southern Nebraska; J. S. Gilham, C. W. Kaley, F. E. Maurer, and E. U. Overman. St. Paul had produced two district judges, A. A. Kendall and James N. Paul. Frank J. Taylor and T. T. Bell have attained considerable prestige as practicing attorneys. Schuyler—C. J. Phelps came to Colfax County in 1869 when it had less than two hundred inhabitants; Russell & Chambers, John H. Brown and Miles Zentmyer were other very early lawyers. James A. Grimison and George H. Thomas became district judges, and other prominent lawyers who practiced at Schuyler were Supreme Court Commissioner W. M. Cain, lately of Fremont, W. I. Allen, B. F. Farrell, George W. Wertz; Mrs. J. A. Grimison was admitted in 1889, and practiced with her husband. Scottsbluff is a rather recent town, started only twenty years ago, but has several very able lawyers. Fred A. Wright had one of the largest practices in western Nebraska prior to his removal to Omaha in 1921. Wm. and Thos. M. Morrow, L. L. Raymond, and Beach Coleman came when the town was yet young. Robert G. Simmons of this bar is State Commander of American Legion in 1921. Seward has been the home of Norval Brothers, one of whom sat on the supreme bench. John N. Edwards, Henry C. Page, Daniel C. McKillip, Thomas E. Sanders, Robert St. Clair, Ross P. Anderson and O. T. B. Williams were early lawyers here. L. H. McKillip, H. D. Landis, and the sons of the Norvals have developed in recent years, and Jacob J. Thomas of this point has been one of the recognized leaders of the Nebraska bar. Judge Norval's firm is one of the recognized offices of the state. Sidney—W. P. Miles of this town has been one of the best known criminal practitioners in Nebraska legal history; his former partner J. L. McIntosh has also developed a good standing. At Stanton have practiced W. P. Cowan, G. A. Eberly, J. A. Ehrhardt, A. A. Kearney and W. W. Young. The Tecumseh bar has a long history; Judge Samuel P. Davidson began the practice there in 1872; D. F. Osgood, for past ten years at Hyannis, Neb., was formerly there; and in more recent years have been A. N. Dafoe, L. C. Chapman, Jay Moore and Hugh Lamaster, now counsel for Nebraska State Railway Commission, and as such an assistant attorney-general. Tekamah has been the home of M. R. and W. M. Hopewell, B. C. Enyart, Judge W. G. Sears, and J. A. Singhaus. At Valentine, F. M. Walcott has been a leading attorney; Chief Justice Andrew M. Morrissey of present Supreme Court formerly practiced here; and E. G. Clarke, J. C. Quigley, John M. Tucker, and R. G. Easley have been successful practitioners. The

Wahoo bar furnished to the state Chief Justice Manoah B. Reese, and if it had never done any more than that would be entitled to rank among the best in the state. Other early lawyers here were Nelson H. Bell, J. R. Gilkeson, early partner of Judge Reese; C. S. Johnson, and in recent years among the practitioners here have been J. H. Barry, Judge B. F. Good, now of Lincoln; Judge E. E. Good, formerly of Supreme Court commission and now of district bench; B. E. Hendricks, E. E. Placek, and C. H. Slama. Wayne has had A. R. Davis, F. A. Berry, Judge A. A. Welch, J. Britton and George R. Wilber. West Point has been the home of J. C. Elliott, well known in northeastern Nebraska, F. D. Hunker, S. S. Krake, P. M. Moodie and A. G. Burke. At Wisner, in the same county of Cuming, have been Jesse C. McNish and Judge A. R. Oleson. York has been the home of District and Supreme Court Judge Samuel H. Sedgwick, his brother, Theron E. Sedgwick; Judge George W. Post, Judge George F. Corcoran, M. M. Wildman, Geo. M. Spurlock, Senator Charles E. Sandall, Judge Arthur G. Wray, who made such a remarkable race for governor in 1920 without a party designation; E. A. and C. F. Gilbert, G. B. France, J. W. Purinton, C. F. Stroman, O. S. Gilmore, and W. W. Wycoff.

The foregoing review has only attempted to touch the larger centers of population and county seat towns of larger population throughout the state, as it is in such places that the greater portion of the law practice centers and the lawyers who gain wide experience in trying cases reside. But this rule, like all others, has notable exceptions, and no doubt we have overlooked lawyers residing in smaller places who have been most adept in their profession. We cannot close this review without paying especial tribute to a record made by one county bar in Nebraska that perhaps was not excelled in the United States. During the recent World war almost the entire Morrill County, Neb., bar went into military service. At the opening of the war there were eleven members of this bar exclusive of County Judge Stueteville, not very actively engaged in the practice. Of those eleven, seven went into the service, or about seventy per cent of this bar left their office and clientele and entered service. William Ritchie, Claiborne G. Perry, Thos. F. Neighbors, George W. Irwin, Yale H. Cavatt and Charles Mantz went into military service; F. E. Williams went over-seas as a Y. M. C. A. worker, and K. W. McDonald figured at one time on leaving; Judge L. G. Hurd, formerly of Harvard, came after the departure of Mr. Williams to care for his office, and located there upon his return. This left at home only Judge George J. Hunt, K. W. McDonald, Fred I. Nichols and later Judge Hurd.

CHAPTER XIII

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF NEBRASKA

AGRICULTURAL NEBRASKA—THE CORN INDUSTRY (W. W. BURR)—THE WHEAT INDUSTRY (W. W. BURR)—FLOURING MILLS—CREAMERIES IN NEBRASKA—THE DAIRY INDUSTRY (J. H. FRANSSEN)—ALFALFA IN NEBRASKA (R. P. CRAWFORD)—BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY (ANDERSON-LASSEN)—THE POTATO INDUSTRY (R. F. HOWARD)—HORTICULTURAL RESOURCES (R. F. HOWARD)—DRY FARMING (C. S. HAWK)—IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA (GEO. E. JOHNSON)—THE BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY (HOWARD GRAMLICH)—THE SWINE INDUSTRY (SAM MCKELVIE)—THE SHEEP INDUSTRY (J. D. WHITMORE)—THE HORSE INDUSTRY (THOMAS BRADSTREET)—THE POULTRY INDUSTRY (F. E. MUSSEHL)—BEES IN NEBRASKA (FRANK G. ODELL).

AGRICULTURAL NEBRASKA

Nebraska is rich in agricultural resources, development and possibilities. Much of the agriculture has passed the experimental stage. It is more or less specialized and standardized. Land values average higher than in most states. There are practically no public lands left subject to entry. Everything, except tracts of a few acres each, is deeded and managed as ranches and farms.

Rich Heritage—The deep, fertile soils of Nebraska represent a heritage of great value. Though there are more than 100 kinds of soil, much of the land is stone free. Broad stretches of comparatively smooth country have a subsoil 50 to 100 feet deep and as rich as the surface soil except for the lower per cent of humus. Such large areas of this kind are not found in any other state.

The diversity of soils, topography, and rainfall in Nebraska cause a diversified agriculture. They determine the distribution of grazing, dry farming, irrigation, and humid farming.

Nebraska ranches and farms are well improved. Most of them use machinery and motor power. There is more than average efficiency per unit of labor. In other words, the per capita production is high.

Farmers' Organizations—The various branches of agricultural industry are organized to further production and distribution. For example, there are swine breeders, livestock associations, dairy organizations, corn growers and fruit growers, representing specialized industry, and the more general organizations, such as the Farmers' Congress, Farmers' Union, etc.

Farm Papers—The daily press, farm journals, and other publications are found in every country home. The Nebraska Press Association is furthering conservation and state development.

The following articles by competent persons cover the leading agricultural industries of Nebraska.

THE CORN INDUSTRY

By W. W. Burr, Professor of Agronomy, The University of Nebraska.

Importance of Corn. Corn is Nebraska's principal crop, being grown on about one-half of the cultivated area of the state. In fact, the favorable climate and good soil make the state especially adapted to corn growing. The cash value and acreage of corn is more than the total of wheat, oats, rye and barley. Since 1910 the corn acreage has increased slightly. The acreage in 1910 was 6,595,088, while in 1918 it was 6,954,061 acres. In 1918, however, the total yield was 123,298,649 bushels, while in 1910 with a smaller acreage the yield was 178,923,128 bushels. This decrease in yield in 1918 was due largely to the low rainfall. The total value of the crop in 1918 was \$160,288,243, as contrasted with \$87,877,546 in 1910. The total acreage in 1919 was 7,639,811 with a production of 182,250,823 bushels valued at \$227,813,528.75. War time prices have brought unusual prosperity to the corn-growers of the state.

Varieties. The common varieties for the southeastern parts of the state are Reid's Yellow Dent, Hogue's Yellow Dent, Chase's White Dent, Iowa's Silver Mine, St. Charles White, and corns of that type. The ears grow 8 to 10 inches long and 7 inches in circumference. The kernels are rather deeply indented, have rather distinct keystone shape and are starchy.

For the central parts of the state, modifications of the above varieties as well as Calico and Gund's White are grown.

Sweet corn. In some sections of the state, especially in the southeastern part, considerable sweet corn is grown on a commercial basis. This is supplied to the canneries in those sections. Several varieties are being grown. The industry has usually brought good returns.

Pop Corn. In the central and northeastern parts of the state, pop corn is grown on a commercial basis, the rice variety being the one ordinarily grown. Under prices that have normally obtained around three cents a pound to the grower, the returns have been satisfactory. During war conditions, the price to the grower was as high as six or seven cents per pound. Some growers are putting the pop corn in cribs in order to hold and find their own markets. Previously most of the pop corn has been grown under contract.

THE WHEAT INDUSTRY

By W. W. Burr, Professor of Agronomy, The University of Nebraska

Acreage and Production. Next to corn, wheat is Nebraska's most important grain crop. The rapid development of the western sections of the state together with war prices has in recent years induced a large increase in acreage. From 1,000,950 acres in 1890, wheat in 1918 reached 3,827,659 acres, with a yield of 43,241,840 bushels, representing in that year a valuation of \$88,483,680. Since the '80s there has been steady increase in production per acre. According to figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the yield per acre was 10.8 bushels, for the 10-year period from 1886 to 1896; the next 10 years 15.4 bushels and during the 10-year period from 1906 to 1915, 17.8 bushels. The average yield

for the entire United States from 1907 to 1915 was 15 bushels per acre. The acreage in Nebraska for 1919 was 4,383,731, and the yield of 60,980,427 bushels represented a valuation of \$121,675,881.10.

Winter Wheat. The increase in wheat growing after 1890 was due largely to the popularity of raising winter wheat. Prior to that time, most wheat grown in Nebraska was spring wheat, but now very little spring wheat is grown. Attempts to grow winter wheat were unsuccessful until the present Turkey Red was introduced. The most extensive wheat area of the state is south of the Platte and west of Gage and Lancaster counties. There are several important areas in the western counties. Wheat is grown in all agricultural districts of Nebraska.

Wherever winter wheat can be grown, it is more desirable than spring wheat because it gives the larger yields. Winter wheat ripens earlier, thus escaping some danger of dry weather, insects, and disease. In the eastern counties, if the weather is hot and dry, spring wheats are usually shriveled, while if the weather is moist, warm and favorable to the development of rust, the crop will not properly fill. Spring wheat is most extensively grown in the northern and northwestern counties.

Varieties of Winter Wheat. The Turkey Red, Kharkov, and Beloglina or any of the Crimean wheats are well adapted and hardy. Turkey Red is far more commonly grown than any other winter wheat in the state. Marvelous, a comparatively recent variety, has given good yields but of somewhat inferior quality.

Varieties of Spring Wheat. Two distinct types of spring wheat are the Common and Durum or Macaroni. The latter does not do well in humid weather. It is adapted to a rainfall of under twenty inches. Durum is grown rather extensively in the western and northwestern parts of the state. Of the common spring wheats the Swedish, Bearded Fife, Marquis, and Early Java have given good results in Nebraska. The Swedish and Marquis are both commercial varieties and can be obtained on that basis.

FLOURING MILLS

Nebraska has become not only an important wheat state, but also a great proportion of the wheat produced in the state is milled right at the doors of the fields. Nebraska has several of the largest flouring mills in the United States, outside of the vast mills in and around Minneapolis. The mills of the Wells, Abbott & Nieman Co. at Schuyler producing Puritan Flour supply a quantity of product, the greatest proportion of which is shipped out of the state, all over the country and to foreign shores. Omaha has the large Maney Mills. A number of the older and important mills of the state were consolidated in 1919 into the Consolidated Milling Co., which took over the Henry Glade Mills of Grand Island, operated by that family since 1883 and the successor of a mill started in 1867; the Hastings Mill, the Ravenna Mills and the Blackburn & Furry Mills at St. Edward. The new Lexington Roller Mills are one of the biggest of their kind in the Central West. The Gooch Mills at Lincoln are among the leading plants of the country. The Crete Mills is another immense plant of this line. Among the Nebraska towns which have built up successful mills are: Ainsworth, Albion, Alexandria, Atkinson, Avoca, Abie, Arapahoe, Auburn, Aurora, Beatrice, Beaver City, Beemer, Bennington, Blair, Bloomfield, Bloomington, Blue Springs, which has natural water power from the Blue River; Brainard, Broken Bow, Burwell, with excellent water power from the Loup; Boelus,

where a great electric power dam is situated upon the Loup; Bruning, Battle Creek, Cambridge, Colelesser, Chappell, Callaway, Campbell, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Clarkson, Clearwater, Columbus, Comstock, Cook, Cozad, Creighton, Crete, Champion, Culbertson, Chadron, Crawford, De Witt, David City, Deshler, Doniphan, Dorchester, Elmcreek, Elmwood, Exeter, Elgin, Franklin, Fremont, Friend, Geneva, Genoa, Gibbon, Gordon, Grand Island, Grant, Greenwood, Gothenberg, Gretna, Hardy, Hartington, Hastings, Hay Springs, Hemingford, Hebron, Hershey, Hildreth, Holdrege, Homer, Howells, Humboldt, Humphrey, Indianola, Jansen, Jaunita, Kearney, Kenesaw, Kimball, Litchfield, Laurel, Lawrence, Lewellen, Lexington, Lincoln, Loup City, Lynch, Lyons, Madison, Mason City, Maywood, Minden, Mitchell, Milford for corn; Monroe, Martinsburg, Neligh, Newcastle, Newman Grove, Norfolk, North Bend, North Platte, Nehawka, Orchard, Orleans, Osceola, Oak, Oakdale, with splendid water power; Ogalalla, Omaha, Ord, Papillion, Pender, Pierce, Plainview, Plattsmouth, Polk, Platte Center, Pleasant Hill, Randolph, Ravenna, Red Cloud, Riverton, Rushville, Royal, St. Edward, Salem, Schuyler, Scribner, Seward, Snyder, Spalding, Spencer, Sterling, Superior, Surprise, Syracuse; some milling at Silver Creek, Sweetwater, Stanton, Shelton, Springview, Stamford, Sutton, Tecumseh, Tilden, Ulysses, Valentine, Valparaiso, Verdigre, Wahoo, West Point, Wilber, Wisner, Wood River, Wynot, Wayne, and York.

Many of these mills are not very large plants, and oftentimes when a flour mill becomes a poor paying investment, it is continued as a grist mill, and sometimes changed into an alfalfa mill. Numerous mills of those listed herein also have machinery for alfalfa milling. But in addition there are a number of alfalfa mills through the state, notably at Kearney, Lexington, Cozad, Elmcreek, Hershey, Mitchell, Seward and Fort Calhoun. Valley and Waterloo, in Douglas County, have large seed houses, and at Ord and North Loup, the pop corn seed industry is important, this Valley County territory ranking a second pop-corn producing center in the country. A list of mills compiled in 1919 and 1920 will soon be out of date, as mills come and go, but the roster of towns that now have mills, or have had until a very recent date, through the diversity in size, location and other characteristics serves to emphasize the fact that Nebraska is an agricultural state from one border to the other, and that wheat is one of the important agricultural factors in the state's resources.

Second to agricultural activities of Nebraska, comes her live stock and dairying business. The importance of Omaha as a live stock center emphasized in another part of this chapter, with her great packing houses and stock yards, serves to bear this out. Lincoln has a reasonable sized stock yards, and a good packing plant. A successful packing plant has operated at Nebraska City for many years, and two small packing plants are operating in 1920 at Grand Island.

Practically every railroad station in the state has a small receiving yard for stock, and the important division centers, as Grand Island, Fremont, Norfolk, in most cases have a fairly equipped stock yards, for transfer and feeding purposes as the cattle are en route to market at Omaha or farther points. Grand Island has the second largest horse and mule markets in the country, and a number of other smaller towns are establishing such market places. A number of condensed milk plants have been put in at Curtis, Fairbury, Garland and other points; a number of the creameries in the state also have ice cream manufacturing plants and a few are devoted to that sole purpose.

CREAMERIES IN NEBRASKA.

Nebraska has two of the largest creamery plants in the United States, especially the Beatrice creamery plant at Lincoln and the Fairmont creamery plants at Crete and Grand Island. Omaha has several creameries and wholesale receiving stations for creamery companies. Firms located at Omaha are Beatrice Creamery Co., Fairmont Creamery Co., Kirschbaum & Sons, Waterloo Creamery Co., Alfalfa Butter Co., David Cole Co., Harding Ice Cream Co., Alamito Dairy Co., Fremont Creamery Co., and numerous other firms. Lincoln comes second as a butter and egg market, with the big Beatrice creamery plant, the Lincoln Pure Butter Co. and the operations of Roberts Dairy Co., which also have a cheese factory at Milford. The Beatrice Creamery Co. have their plants also at Beatrice and Central City. The Ravenna Creamery Co., in addition to the home plant at Ravenna, have plants at Ord and Loup City. The Waterloo Creamery Co. have plants at Omaha, Waterloo and Papillion. Nebraska has been dotted with a myriad of smaller creameries, located, among others, at the following towns: Arcadia, Aurora, Albion, Callaway, Chambers, Coleridge, Comstock, Columbus, Fremont, Fairbury, Fontanelle, Humboldt, Kearney, Morrill, North Platte, Norfolk, Archer, Alliance, York, Woobach, Verdigre, Scottsbluff, Superior, Randolph and Minden, for ice cream; Nebraska City, McCook, O'Neill, Louisville, Holdrege, Hemingford, Hastings, Germantown, Deshler, Burwell, Bridgeport, Eagle, Hartington, Hay Springs, Hildreth, Howells, Leigh, Madison, Red Cloud, Riverton, St. Paul, Schuyler, Spalding, West Point, Mullen and Palmer.

Even should a few newer plants have been inadvertently overlooked in this list, or a few that may have closed down in the last year or two not been culled out, the foregoing list shows conclusively that the dairying industry in Nebraska has reached the stage where it has very evenly spread into all parts of the commonwealth.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

By J. H. Fransden, Professor of Dairy Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska has importance in dairying, yet the conditions favor a much larger development of the industry. Among the favorable conditions are healthful climate, good water, a large number of suitable feeds, and transportation facilities for marketing the dairy products.

Number of Cows. The number of milch cows reported for Nebraska has increased during the past few years. The 1918 census shows 530,113 cows valued at \$47,-710,170. This is a distribution of about seven cows per square mile, whereas there is room for three or four times this number.

Forms of the Dairy Industry. The dairy industry includes the production of milk and cream, butter-making and the by-products connected therewith, and the manufacture of large quantities of ice cream. Creameries, cream stations, condensories, and milk depots are established in various parts of the state. The largest butter-making centers are Omaha and Lincoln.

Milk is produced and separated on many farms and ranches. The separated milk is fed to live stock and the cream is used or shipped. Many small dairies supply the towns and cities with milk. Some home-made butter is sold on local markets.

Small and large dairies haul and ship milk to towns and cities. Cream is collected at hundreds of stations and shipped to the butter-making centers.

More progress has been made in the dairy industry in Nebraska during the past two years than during any ten-year period previously, according to J. E. Palm, secretary of the Nebraska Dairymen's Association, upon November 21, 1920.

Although the state still ranks comparatively low in the milk producing states, it is fourth in butter production. "This has been brought about," Mr. Palm says, "by the breeding of better stock, dairymen and farmers realizing that by raising pure bred animals their butter production will be increased."

Nebraska, he says, is admirably adapted to the dairy industry. "Few states have greater possibilities in dairying than Nebraska," he says. To substantiate this statement, Mr. Palm calls attention to the fact that during last year the state produced more than 3,000,000 tons of alfalfa. "Some states that are ahead of Nebraska in the dairy industry produce very little alfalfa and are forced to have this feed shipped in," he said.

Government statistics for last year show that the state had 27,785 milch cows, an increase of more than 6,000 over the preceding year. This year, Mr. Palm says, the increase will be even greater.

The Nebraska Dairymen's Association has been conducting an educational campaign to promote the uses of milk and milk products. Another campaign among dairymen and farmers is being conducted by the association to induce them to kill off the nonproducing milch cows and replace them with pure-bred stock. Every effort is being done to replace the scrub cow with better grades.

INTRODUCTION OF ALFALFA INTO NEBRASKA.

Dr. C. E. Bessey, in writing concerning this plant, in 1890, remarked: "It is said the Greeks and Romans grew it, and that to these countries it was brought from Persia, and possibly from regions still farther east. Its cultivation certainly dates back two thousand or twenty-five hundred years."

It is claimed that S. P. Parker, of Curtis, Frontier County, grew alfalfa in 1876; in 1878 it was tried in Harlan County by J. C. Mitchell; J. P. Nead of Riverton grew it in 1882; a field was tried at Guide Rock, Nebraska, in 1877. Martin Slatery of Shelton, Buffalo County, tried it in 1887, and H. D. Watson on his ranch found twenty acres growing there when he took charge in 1889, so while not the first, Hall County was among the pioneer counties in introducing alfalfa into Nebraska.

ALFALFA IN NEBRASKA

By R. P. Crawford, of the Nebraska Farmer

Alfalfa is one of Nebraska's main crops, and with the exception of wheat, corn, oats, and wild hay, was credited with the greatest acreage of any crop in 1918. Reports from the State Board of Agriculture indicated 1,161,941 acres devoted to this crop in 1918 with a yield of 2,527,834 tons. The acreage in 1919 increased to 1,180,234 with a production of 3,214,999.1 tons. This shows an increase of 687,165 tons in production for one year. Alfalfa gives the heaviest yield per acre of any hay crop grown in Nebraska.

Probably the last ten years have witnessed the greatest development in alfalfa growing in the state. In 1908 the total acreage was only a little more than a half million acres. Now there is hardly a county in the state that does not have an important acreage devoted to this crop. Through the west-central section of Nebraska there is a district that is more famed for its alfalfa than almost any other section. Last year one man sold his crop in the field, stacked but not hauled away, for \$70 an acre. This is above the average and the prices received last year were unusual, but it nevertheless gives some idea of the money that lies in the growing of this crop. Another farmer, a sheep man, estimates that during normal years he can make \$24 an acre net profit. That is figuring alfalfa at only \$8 a ton.

While alfalfa has attained its greatest popularity in the western half of the state, it is well suited to nearly every section and a good majority of the farms have at least some acreage devoted to it. It is easily grown and the fact that it comes up year after year makes it a crop to be managed with the minimum of care. Alfalfa also plays an important part as a soil builder. It belongs to a legume family and growing it will enrich the soil. Each acre of alfalfa adds over twice as much nitrogen to the soil as the average acre of red clover. Alfalfa because of its long root growth will also withstand dry weather much more readily than other crops.

Other Hay Crops. In 1918 there were 2,587,678 acres devoted to wild hay and 2,771,234 acres in 1919. During the last ten years there has been a gradual tendency, however, to devote more acres to cultivated crops, this being especially true with the development of the newer districts of the state. In 1918 there were 122,162 acres of clover, 154,472 acres of timothy, and 101,441 acres of timothy and clover mixed. In 1919 the acreage was as follows: Clover, 60,213; timothy, 46,724; timothy and clover mixed, 185,233. The yield of wild hay is far less than the yield of alfalfa. In 1918 the yield of wild hay per acre was .88 tons, while alfalfa yielded 2.1 tons, this being a low-yielding year for both crops, but in 1919 wild hay averaged 1.02 tons and alfalfa 2.7 tons. The average yield of alfalfa is close to 3 tons per acre, while the average yield of wild hay is approximately 1 ton.

THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY

By Esther S. Anderson, Department of Geography, The University of Nebraska

Conditions Favorable. Nebraska is one of the pioneer states in the production of beet sugar. The climate and the soils of the western counties are especially suited for growing beets high in sugar content. The long summer days with abundance of sunshine and the cool nights are favorable conditions. The beet fields are irrigated during the growing season but little water is required later when the plants are manufacturing and storing sugar.

Where Beets Are Grown. The principal beet-growing areas are in the North Platte, Platte, Lodgepole, and Republican valleys on very fine sandy loam and fine sandy loam soils. The land is comparatively smooth, well drained, and easy to till.

Sugar Factories. The first successful beet sugar factory in the United States was erected in Alvarado, California, in 1870. The second, with a capacity of 350 tons of beets per day, was built in Grand Island in 1890 by the Oxnard Brothers. This plant, which has run most campaigns since building, was remodeled and enlarged last year. A factory with a capacity of 400 tons per day was built at

Norfolk in 1891. It operated with indifferent success for a few years and was finally moved to Lamar, Colorado. A plant constructed at Ames, Nebraska, several years ago, operated a few campaigns and was moved to Scottsbluff, where in 1910 it was built into a large modern plant with a capacity of 1,900 or more tons per day. In 1916 a factory, capacity about 1,200 tons, was erected at Gering, and the fourth plant now operating in the state was established at Bayard in 1917.

It has been found that conditions for the beet sugar industry are less favorable in the east-central part of the state than in the western part. The sugar content is lower and it is not possible to organize and conduct the labor activities so readily because the people are more accustomed to the growing of corn, wheat, and alfalfa; hence, the first factories built in Nebraska were moved to the more advantageous places.

Shipment of Beets. Beet raising has rapidly increased since the development was started in the North Platte Valley. Beets grown in the Republican and Lodgepole valleys are shipped to the Grand Island plant and to factories in Colorado. The Grand Island plant receives beets also from the Platte and lower part of the North Platte Valley. Most beets grown in the North Platte Valley are milled at the Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard plants. Some Wyoming beets are shipped to these factories.

This story of the sugar beet is set out in an interesting way in a volume of biographical and historical memoirs of Nebraska, published in 1890, wherein Professor Lassen treated the sugar beet industry as follows:

Margraff demonstrated 140 years ago that there was sugar in the beets; and the total product of France and Germany in the last half century alone demonstrated its value. The reflecting reader who sees nothing in Napoleon save that of the great military leader, has failed to note the early, substantial encouragement that he gave the beet sugar industry in France, which in turn gave it greater impetus and success in Germany, albeit there were three factories in Germany as early as 1805, but the warlike situation was not favorable for such an enterprise. Very soon, however, Napoleon issued his famous decrees shutting out all English goods and material, which, if the effect was to raise the price of sugar, ruined the French wine trade and compelled the French to look for ways and means to dispose profitably of their grape crops and obtain a supply of sugar. In 1810 he gave two experimenters \$28,000 for discovering grape sugar; the amount to be expended in the erection of factories. Soon after this Napoleon gave \$40,000 to twelve grape sugar factories by way of bounty or special encouragement. In 1811 he decreed that 79,000 acres should be planted to beets, and he established six experimental stations to give instruction in the beet sugar industry, ordering that all farmers who desired attend lectures given there might do so free of charge, and the sum of \$200,000 was set apart to pay the expense. In 1812 he established four special beet-root sugar schools, directing that 100 students be attached thereto. In addition and by way of special encouragement, he ordered to be granted 500 licenses for beet sugar production, to run to proprietors of factories and to manufacturers of sugar from beets; and those who made a ton of raw sugar were to be exempt from tax on their product for four years. In 1812 he directed the erection of four imperial beet sugar factories to produce 2,100 tons. During this time Germany was not idle. The king of Prussia gave Archard, a pupil of Margraff, a good sum of money to establish a school or factory for instruction in beet sugar production, and from this school Russia drew her prac-

tical knowledge of the work, and the Czar gave \$39,000 and exempted all land of those who built beet sugar factories from tax. At least one great discoverer and experimenter in this field, in Germany and France, was offered \$100,000 if he would declare that his supposed discovery was a failure, but it did not attract him. The Napoleonic wars destroyed this great industry in Russia, Germany, and finally in France—after Napoleon had appropriated millions of dollars to give it a substantial footing. It did not rise again in France until 1825-26, nor in Germany until 1835. From that time forward both France and Germany, as well as Russia, Austria and Belgium, have put forth great efforts to extend the production of beet sugar, both by bounties and by drawbacks on exported sugar from beets, as well as a tariff on imported sugar. The stimulants offered resulted in such a measure of success in France, that in 1839, a special tax of 15 francs on every 220 pounds of raw sugar was imposed. This operated harshly, and the product fell off over one-half. New laws more liberal were passed from time to time, a tax going hand in hand generally with bounties and drawbacks, until, in 1878, France collected as tax, on sugar made in that country, upward of \$22,000,000. This, in brief, is only a part of the early history of beet sugar production in France; and Germany as a matter of economic policy, followed in swift pursuit. Such was the development of the industry that in 1883-84 there were 2,000,000 acres devoted to the production of the sugar beet in France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Poland, Belgium, and Holland; and the aggregate beet sugar product, leaving out Russia and Holland, was 1,485,000 tons with 1,242 factories. At that time Germany had outstripped her great rival, France, because of her liberality and superior knowledge of the subject. So great was the quantity of beet sugar produced in 1883, that there was a temporary glut of it in the English market, inducing some farmers to ask a change in the laws, while others resorted to less acreage to reduce the surplus; meantime our people are paying from 6 to 9 cents for their sugar, entailing an expense to our population annually of over \$75,000,000, the great part of the raw material of which goes abroad for refineries from Cuba; 240,000,000 of pounds imported by us in 1887 coming from England, Germany, France, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. Consul-General Walker says on the point, "It is to be noted that the sugar production of Germany has been stimulated by heavy protective duties and by bounties on export sugar, and the French tariff act of 1884 was a step toward adopting the policy which her great rival, Germany, had found so effective.

To show the effect of these laws, it seems only necessary to say that while the acreage in beets in Germany, in 1870, was 282,500, in 1883 it was 352,100, and tons of sugar produced in 1879 were 2,850,000, while in 1883 it was 4,205,000 tons.

THE POTATO INDUSTRY

By R. F. Howard, Horticulturist, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska ranks about tenth among the large potato producing states. Over 140,000 acres of potatoes were grown in the state in 1917, representing a total yield of over 12,000,000 bushels. A large proportion of the yield is from western counties, including Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, Sheridan, Dawes, Kimball, Banner, Sioux, and Brown. Approximately 2,000,000 bushels are grown with irrigation in Scotts

Bluff, Morrill, Sioux, and Kimball counties. Potatoes are raised on most farms and ranches of the state.

The Nebraska Potato Improvement Association promotes the potato industry in Nebraska along the lines of production, transportation, and utilization of potatoes. Through it we may expect to see the best varieties and strains of seed potatoes grown and disseminated. It will aid in establishing and maintaining the proper cultural practices and crop rotations in relation to soil fertility and yield.

There are almost unlimited possibilities for extending the potato industry in western Nebraska. Over half of the land suitable for potato production is still in native sod. A three or four-year crop rotation with potatoes as one of the crops makes it possible to grow potatoes indefinitely. It has been demonstrated that the potato soils of this region will grow this crop indefinitely without addition of artificial fertilizers provided a proper rotation of crops is used.

Growing Seed Potatoes. The production of high quality seed potatoes in western Nebraska is a possibility as yet only partially realized. An effort should be made to supply the southern states with seed from this region. Potatoes grown in the central and southern states under ordinary methods of cultivation should not be used as seed the following year. It is generally known that potatoes produced in a cool climate will give a heavier yield when used as seed than potatoes produced under warmer conditions. A comparison of the yielding qualities has been made the past two years of seed produced under dry land conditions of western Nebraska with seed from various other states, including Maine, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These tests indicate that Nebraska seed will yield as well or better than seed produced in the other northern states.

Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana need each year approximately 2,000,000 bushels of seed potatoes.

HORTICULTURAL RESOURCES

By R. F. Howard, Horticulturist, The University of Nebraska

It was demonstrated early in the history of the state that Nebraska could grow fruit of many kinds. There are over two million apple trees now in the orchards of the state, and cherries, plums, grapes, pears, and strawberries are grown in abundance. The greater part of the commercial plantings are in the eastern half of the state; several commercial orchards and hundreds of home orchards, however, may be found in many places in western Nebraska, especially along the Platte and other valleys.

The deep loess soil formation in the eastern part of the state is especially well adapted to the production of fruit. This soil possesses the elements of fertility to a great depth. It also has a structure that permits the roots of the trees to penetrate it to a depth, making it an ideal soil on which to grow trees of many kinds, especially fruit trees, and vineyards. Large commercial plantings are now being developed there. The natural advantages for growing fruit of superior quality in this region together with the moderate price of the land, make it probable that this will develop into one of the most important fruit growing sections in the middle west.

One of the chief advantages in growing fruit in this section is to be found in the fact that there will always be a market within a radius of a few hundred miles.

Nurseries. There are over forty nurseries in the state, growing fruit trees, shade trees, ornamentals and other plants. Several of these nurseries are doing a large volume of business, shipping their goods to many other states.

Vegetables of many kinds are grown in every county of the state. The home garden is an important part of practically every farm producing not only fresh vegetables for the growing season but sufficient for canned, dried and stored vegetables for the entire year as well.

The city home gardens constitute in the aggregate an important part in the total garden production of the state. The Junior Division of the Extension Service of the University has forty-one towns doing organized garden work. There are 2,468 boys and girls enrolled.

Commercial Trucking is highly developed in several parts of the state, especially in the vicinities of Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, Hastings, Nebraska City, Grand Island, Fremont and South Sioux City.

DRY FARMING

By C. S. Hawk, Member, State Board of Agriculture

The western part of the state is known as the sub-humid area because of its comparatively low rainfall. There are several kinds of soil in this part of the state, some of which are suitable for farming, and others which are better suited for grazing.

Failure and Success. The early settlers did not distinguish between the soils, neither did they understand that they had come to a country where the amount of rainfall is a controlling factor in agriculture. Many of them used crops and methods of cultivation which were suited only to humid areas. There were failures for a number of years, except for years with heavy rainfall. Finally, after much practical experience and experimentation by state and federal departments, it was found that crops could be grown successfully in much of the western part of the state, but that it required technical knowledge regarding the soils and cultural methods. Seeds from sub-humid areas were introduced and large yields of wheat, oats, rye, corn, and potatoes have been produced.

Much of western Nebraska outside the irrigated areas is well suited to the so-called dry farming. One of the best areas is on Dalton Table where the land has been successfully cultivated for a number of years. All told, dry farming is an important factor in the agricultural development of Nebraska. Much of the land formerly grazed has come under extensive cultivation by using methods which conserve the soil moisture and by growing drouth resistant crops. With these practices for the last ten or twelve years northwestern Nebraska has continued to produce good yields of the hardy varieties of small grain, corn, and potatoes.

IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA

By G. E. Johnson, State Engineer

Irrigation is practiced quite generally and successfully in the western part of Nebraska, where the rainfall is lowest. Much of the irrigation is from canals, but

part is from wells. About 450,000 acres are covered by irrigation systems and much of this is irrigated from canals. Much of this is in the North Platte Valley, yet there are successful irrigation enterprises in the Lodgepole, South Platte, Republican, Frenchman, Pumpkin Creek, Niobrara, Hat Creek, White River, and other valleys. The total mileage of canals built in the state is about 2,400 at a cost of more than \$11,000,000.

The North Platte is the largest project. Its storage reservoir, known as the Pathfinder, is located 43 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. This reservoir holds more than one million acre feet of flood water which when released, flows about 150 miles on the bed of the Platte to the Whalen Diversion Dam where it is diverted to each side of the valley and finally carried to the land to be irrigated. The North Side Canal carries flood water to Lake Alice and Lake Minatare reservoirs of Scotts Bluff County. The north and south side government projects combined have an irrigable area of 252,000 acres, of which about 150,000 acres are irrigated this year. The Inter-State or North Side Project covers 129,270 acres of bench land between Whalen, Wyoming, and the divide between Red Willow and Indian creeks in Nebraska. The south side or Fort Laramie part of the project will cover about 48,000 acres in Nebraska when completed. The Inter-State Canal has a capacity of 1,400 second feet at the headgate. This is reduced several miles eastward to 1,200 second feet and finally to 800 second feet. Lake Alice has a capacity of 14,000 acre feet and Lake Minatare of 67,000 acre feet. Water from these large reservoirs and the river is carried through canals and laterals to the fields and crops.

There are other large Platte River projects in Nebraska. Some of the larger ones are the Tri-State, Gering, Central, Chimney Rock, Belmont, Brown's Creek, and the Beerline Canal, which receive water from the government under contract and from the normal flow of the river. These just named have a combined capacity of considerably more than 100,000 acres. There are quite large projects in other valleys.

The irrigation waters of Nebraska have been carefully surveyed by state and federal departments. They are under the administration of the State Board of Irrigation, Highways and Drainage. Plans are under way to construct additional reservoirs to hold flood waters and to increase the efficiency of water used in irrigation.

Irrigation Farming. The irrigation districts produce vast quantities of alfalfa, oats, wheat, potatoes, beets, corn, vegetables, and fruit. The country is nearly all successfully farmed and well improved. It brings good returns to the land owner and to the renter. Land values range between \$100 and \$500 or more per acre.

THE BEEF-CATTLE INDUSTRY

By Howard Gramlich, Professor of Animal Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska has high rank in every branch of the beef industry, whether it be cattle raising, breeding, feeding, or slaughtering. The industry is supported by extensive grazing areas, fattening feeds, favorable climate, and good water supplies coming from springs, streams, and thousands of wells. Not much shelter is used except windbreaks. The usual absence of winter rains insures comparatively dry under-

footing. The industry has grown to a point where the state has 2,374,762 beef cattle (1918).

Cattle Ranches. Much of west-central and western Nebraska is a native prairie which supports successful grazing. The best developed cattle ranches are in the Sandhill Region, yet there are many in the dry farming areas to the west. As a whole, these ranches are large and well managed, some of them having thousands of acres and most of them fenced, and containing both pasture and hay land. In many places the pastures are divided between summer and winter ranges. Small tracts of land are given over to grains, potatoes, and vegetables for ranch use.

Nearly all the ranches have well-bred cattle, prevailing breeds being the Herefords and Shorthorns. Pure bred sires have been used for many generations and most animals are now of good quality.

Ranch Products. The main product of the cattle country is steers. These are mainly shipped as two and three-year-olds. The calf crop is usually dropped in the early spring. The cows and calves remain together until weaning time. No feed other than grass is required during summer. The calves are branded in the summer and weaned and dehorned in the fall. They are kept in corrals adjacent to the ranch buildings during the winter and are sometimes fed a small amount of cottonseed cake and alfalfa in addition to the native hay. The animals graze upon the winter range which is land that has not been pastured the preceding summer. The hay is fed during storms and when the ground is covered with snow.

After the first winter the calves are permitted to rustle for themselves, receiving no additional feed, except hay, until they are marketed at the age of about three years. Two-year-olds weigh 800 to 900 pounds and three-year-olds 1,100 to 1,200. The heavy steers are sold direct to the packers for beef purposes and the lighter ones are sold as feeders.

The cows and bulls are shipped to market after a few years of use for breeding purposes. Though most of the cattle of the ranch country are raised in Nebraska, many animals are shipped in from other states and finished on the ranches and in the feed lots of the state.

Cattle Raising on Farms. The eastern and southeastern parts of Nebraska are devoted principally to farming. Cattle raised on these farms are sold either as feeders or finished for market. In many places animals serve for both beef production and dairy purposes. There is not so much specialization in beef production here as in the ranch country. The dual purpose type of cattle is also found in the dry farming and irrigated areas of the western parts of the state.

Feeding for Market. The agricultural sections of the state produce an abundance of finishing feeds, such as corn, alfalfa, and beet pulp. Many farmers engaged in cattle feeding finish their homegrown animals for market. A specialized form of the industry is carried on in large feed yards, such as those at Central City and Scottsbluff, where thousands of animals are handled. Some of the feeder steers come from nearby farms, but most of them are shipped in from the range country.

Cattle Breeding. Nebraska is an important cattle-breeding state. Most of the breeders are in the eastern and southern parts of the state. The Mousel Brothers of Cambridge carry a breeding herd of 500 registered Herefords. Registered animals of these and other breeders are sold at advertised sales and used locally or shipped throughout the state, or to other states. Many breeding animals are imported.

Cattle Market. Some of the best animals of the ranches are shipped directly to

market. Others are finished in feed lots and marketed in Omaha and other places for slaughter. The Omaha market is one of the largest in the United States, with its big slaughter houses and packing plants. The records show that the Omaha market received 1,993,366 head of cattle during 1918, of which 1,150,635 were from Nebraska. In 1919 this market received 1,975,236 cattle of which 1,066,204 were from Nebraska. During the last thirty-five years 30,481,187 head of cattle have been shipped to the Omaha market.

THE SWINE INDUSTRY

By Sam McKelvie, Clay Center, Nebraska

Corn and hogs are closely related in production and partly owing to this fact Nebraska is now the second greatest swine producing state in proportion to its population, being second to Iowa. Though corn has always played a very large part in feeding, a second factor, alfalfa, holds an important place in the hog industry of Nebraska.

The report of the State Board of Agriculture shows that there were 1,680,460 hogs in the state in 1910. By 1918 this number had jumped to 2,038,460. The total value of hogs in 1910 was \$18,084,400, while in 1918 it was \$61,147,080.

From my personal experience, dating back to the '70s, I regard swine production in Nebraska one of the most profitable, if not the most profitable, of our live stock pursuits.

Breeds. The main breeds of hogs raised in Nebraska are the Duroc Jersey, Poland China, Chester White and Hampshire. Although the hog business is primarily a market venture, there is a great deal of pure-bred stock, and practically every community has its breeders. Hogs might be called a universal crop in Nebraska, since practically every county raises its share. Most animals are found in the areas growing most alfalfa and corn.

Quick Returns. While both cattle and hogs conserve the fertility of the soil, one gets quicker returns from the hog than from the steer. One calf is produced by each cow annually and usually has to be kept until about two years old before marketing, while a sow will produce a litter in the spring that with careful treatment can be marketed before the snow flies, and even a second litter within the same year. I would say frankly that I would not think of trying to operate a Nebraska farm profitably without growing hogs thereon.

Market. Omaha, with railroad lines radiating out into every section of the state furnishes a fine market for hogs. The Omaha yards received 3,429,533 hogs in 1918 and received 67,500,753 during the 35-year period from 1884 to 1918 inclusive. In 1919 these yards received 3,179,116 hogs, of which number 2,274,936 were from Nebraska. Another development is the motor truck method of hauling hogs to markets which in eastern Nebraska is becoming more common. Some Nebraska hogs are shipped to Denver, St. Joseph, Kansas City, and Sioux City.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

By J. D. Whitmore, President of the Valley Stock Yards Company

Sheep raising is increasing in Nebraska. Many farmers and ranchmen carry a few animals to clean up roughage. Sheep raising has great importance in the states

to the west and northwest of Nebraska, from which many animals are shipped into this state for feeding, and to market. Much of the breeding stock of the sheep-growing states is produced in Nebraska.

The Agricultural Reports show that there were 278,821 sheep on farms and ranches and 108,000 sheep were owned for breeding purposes in 1918. Larger numbers than these were fed in the state. It is not possible from data at hand to give the total sheep population of Nebraska.

Breeding. There are a few places in the state where breeding sheep are raised commercially. Mr. Robert Taylor of Abbott (near Grand Island), the largest operator, is among the pioneers. He sells hundreds of lambs and sheep of both sexes to western range sheepmen annually. Several others operate in the same manner in different localities, but on a smaller scale.

Sheep Feeding. This is of two kinds—the feeding or fattening for market and feeding-in-transit. The sheep grown in the northwestern states must be fed on the way to market and many of them are finished for market on Nebraska's prairie hay, and other feeds. Our feeds are between the grazing country and the big markets. This gives to the state a great advantage in the sheep industry. Much feeding is done on a commercial basis, yet there is a noticeable tendency for the land owners to engage in the sheep-feeding business. This enables farmers to market farm products on their land, thus obtaining large quantities of manure and affording winter work. This feeding is principally in the districts of intensified farming, and particularly in the irrigated sections, where much alfalfa is grown.

Largest commercial feeding of sheep is in the vicinity of Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard, where many thousands of animals are fed. Two years ago more than 300,000 sheep were fed within a short radius of Scottsbluff. The beet sugar companies and private parties engage in feeding. Some of the largest feed yards of the United States are at Shelton, in an alfalfa and corn belt.

Most sheep fed in Nebraska are from west and northwest on feeding-in-transit billing, and when finished, shipped to market at a small additional cost for freight over the straight point-of-origin to final destination rate.

Transient Feeding. Sheep fattened on the western ranges are shipped direct to market for killers, and many of them pass through Nebraska on the Union Pacific, Burlington, and Northwestern railroads. "The regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture provide that live stock of any kind shall not be confined for a period longer than twenty-eight consecutive hours without unloading same in a humane manner into properly equipped pens for rest, water, and feeding for a period of at least five consecutive hours unless prevented by storm or by other accidental or unavoidable causes which cannot be anticipated or avoided by the exercise of due diligence and foresight, except, however, upon the written request of the owner or persons in custody of any particular shipment, the time of confinement may be extended to thirty-six hours.

To comply with these regulations as well as to care for the best interests of the shippers, the railroads have established feed yards along their lines—the Union Pacific at Sidney, North Platte, Grand Island, Fremont, and Valley; the Burlington at Alliance, Aurora, McCook, Hastings, and Burnham; the Northwestern at Long Pine and Fremont. Millions of sheep and other stock are fed at these feed yards annually on their way to the Chicago and Missouri River markets, as well as to feed lots.

Many successful stockmen find that it does not pay to keep stock off feed too long, and therefore feed oftener than is required by law. Nearly all of them feed long enough at the last feeding-in-transit point to get back part of the shrink caused by shipment, and put the sheep on the market in a much better condition, thereby obtaining better weights and higher prices.

Markets. The big Nebraska market is at Omaha. The yards here received 3,385,696 sheep in 1918 and have received 51,330,802 sheep for the 35-year period ending with the year 1918. In 1919, 3,789,188 sheep were received, of which 870,330 were from Nebraska. Part of the wool clipped on the ranches and at the feed yards goes to Omaha warehouses. The chief product of the animals at the packing houses is mutton.

THE HORSE INDUSTRY

By William Thomas Bradstreet, President of the Grand Island Horse Market

While horse raising in Nebraska is not a leading industry, there are numerous breeders of pure-bred stock and a large number of farmers who make a practice of raising a few horses as a side line. The auto, truck, and tractor have reduced the demand for horses in most places, yet few farms in the state have been able, with motor power, to do away with horses altogether.

Those who find the horse business a profitable one generally make a practice of keeping a few mares on the place for general work and in addition raise a few colts per year. There usually is a good market for horses and any surplus can be disposed of to neighbors or at sales with little trouble. Just now few horse colts are raised. The mule is preferred and mule colts are increasing at the expense of the horse.

Number of Horses. The report of the State Board of Agriculture showed 910,079 horses and 102,192 mules in the state in 1918. There were 924,756 horses in 1912, showing that the decrease from the maximum number has been comparatively slight. But as compared with 1910 and previous years, there is today an increase in total number of horses. The mule population is increasing. Many horses are shipped in from western states for use on Nebraska farms. More horses are shipped out, however, than are shipped into the state.

Horses on Ranches. The large cattle ranches of the central and western counties require a good many horses for riding and hay-making. Formerly they were used for driving, but the auto has displaced the horse at most places for this purpose. Evidently, the ranches will continue to need horses.

Horses on Farms. Though motor power has come into general use in Nebraska and much of the plowing, harvesting, and hauling is done with machinery pulled or driven by this power, there remain a number of places where horses are the more dependable. We believe, on this account, that it will be many years before horses disappear from Nebraska farms because they are better suited than tractors and trucks on many farms located on many kinds of soils.

Race Horses. The state has produced a number of animals that have made good records, particularly in trotting and pacing. It seems, however, that the number of race horses raised in Nebraska is decreasing.

Horse Markets. There are a number of local sales places in the state and two large general horse markets. These markets are at Grand Island and Omaha.

Horses reach these markets from Nebraska and several other states. They are

brought in generally from the northwest, from as far as California, and shipped to the eastern and southern states as well as to closer points. At times more than twenty states are represented by buyers at these sales which are held twice a week in the winter time and less frequently in the summer time.

The barns at South Omaha and Grand Island are well equipped for handling horses. The animals are received and shaped up for sale. They are classed as broke and unbroke animals. Those sold as "broke" are tested for wind and work and are sorted and graded as to age, size, and soundness. The animals are sold in the stall or from the pen, but more generally from the ring on auction day. The principal grades are pony, southern, farm chunk, draft, and heavy draft. There are few calls for fancy saddle horses, and the roadster is nearly a thing of the past.

Horse Feeding. Many farmers feed their horses for sale. Companies and individuals fatten horses particularly in the vicinity of the big markets. The animals are fed like cattle. The draft and heavy draft animals are the ones usually handled. The feeding period is thirty to ninety days, averaging about sixty days with a gain of about three pounds per day. Corn, oats, alfalfa and bran are used.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

By F. E. Mussehl, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Poultry raising is an important branch of agriculture in Nebraska. It includes chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls. These contribute annually more than \$50,000,000 to the state's wealth, principally from poultry and eggs. Chickens lead in the value of production. Several varieties are grown, such as the Rocks, Wyandottes, Reds, Cochins, Brahmas, and Leghorns. There is considerable specialization to meet the market conditions, and poultry breeding is carried on generally throughout the state.

Poultry Population. The poultry population of Nebraska is about twelve million birds. Hamilton County leads with one-third million birds. There are about twenty-one thousand incubators and brooders in the state, and it is estimated that 170,000 people raise chickens on farms and ranches or in the back yards of towns and cities. Much of the poultry and many of the eggs are used by the producers or sold on local markets but large quantities become commercial.

Conditions Favorable. Nebraska is very well adapted to poultry raising because of its favorable climate as shown by the sub-humid atmosphere, long periods of sunshine, and because of the abundance of feed and a ready market. There is comparatively little trouble with poultry diseases and destructive animals. Chickens and one or more forms of other poultry are grown on practically all ranches and farms of the state. The industry is specialized at various points for raising breeding stock and exhibition stock.

Poultry Associations and Exhibits. There are a number of poultry associations in the state, and the poultry department of The University of Nebraska is furthering the industry, both as to instruction in the Agricultural College and as a part of the extensive work done throughout the state. Poultry exhibits are made at all county fairs and a large and complete exhibit is made each year at the State Fair.

Poultry Feeding. Poultry is a large item in the meat supply of most homes in the state. Farmers sell grown birds to town folk and to large milk feeding plants

located in about twenty towns and cities. The birds in the feeding plants, as at Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Falls City, Crete, and Grand Island, are finished within about two weeks on mashed feed. The gain is rapid; the birds now in good condition are killed and packed for shipment to the eastern cities or to foreign countries. Many of these large birds go for roasts.

Baby Chicks. The production of baby chicks in hatcheries especially developed for this purpose has become an industry in itself. The manufacture of incubators, brooders, trap nests, and similar appliances has importance. These efficient labor-saving devices aid in conserving the poultry industry which is rapidly extending in importance and as an adjunct to the general agricultural development.

BEES IN NEBRASKA

By Frank G. Odell

(Mr. Odell, formerly an expert bee keeper of Nebraska, has a national reputation as an authority on this subject.)

Bee keeping has been well established in Nebraska since pioneer days. In recent years specialization of this industry has grown considerably in the state with good results. Numerous beekeepers near the cities maintain profitable apiaries. In the Platte Valley, particularly in the alfalfa growing districts in the western part of the state, bees are very profitable and the honey yield is uniformly satisfactory. The state reports show 25,107 stands of bees in Nebraska in 1919.

The principal plants which produce a marketable quality of honey, in the order of their importance are: Alfalfa, white and alsike clover, sweet clover, and hearts-ease, the latter plant yielding the principal autumn crop.

CHAPTER XIV

MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

NEBRASKA FACTORIES—MANUFACTURERS OF NEBRASKA (FRANK I. RINGER)—RAILROADS AND INTERURBAN COMMUNICATION (H. G. TAYLOR)—THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY (R. E. MATTISON)—MINERAL RESOURCES (G. E. CONDRA)—SAND, COAL, OIL, CLAY, CEMENT AND POTASH (G. E. CONDRA).

NEBRASKA FACTORIES

Without taking the space to attempt a thorough roster of Nebraska's many manufacturing enterprises, it is desired to call attention to a few here and there, in order to impress upon the reader the diversity of Nebraska's resources, not altogether dependent upon agriculture. Broom factories have been established in numerous Nebraska towns, notably Omaha, Lincoln, Red Cloud, Burwell, Deshler, Bloomington, Seward, and others. Many Nebraska bakeries have branched into the manufacture of ice cream and various products. Nebraska has several factories now devoted to manufacture of clothing and shoes. Over seventy towns in the state have cement block manufactories, and some of these towns are hardly more than villages. Exeter has a factory for the manufacture of metal tags, the product of which has become a nationally advertised article. Harness shops and cigar factories are very common throughout the state. Over twenty-five granite and monument works in the state are turning out this finished product. In support of the statement that the foregoing does not even pretend to be a roster of Nebraska manufactured articles, but simply an indicative list of the scope, extent and diversity of the same, can be cited the fact that recently a contest was conducted in Grand Island, the third city of the state, with a population according to 1920 census of approximately 14,000, to ascertain the number of articles manufactured in that city, and the number finally determined upon was 353. When this fact is considered with the reasonable presumption that the other cities of the same class, and within a few thousand of the same population, such as Hastings, Fremont, North Platte, Beatrice, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, York, Fairbury, Nebraska City, Falls City and their sister cities add their number, it is promising for the future manufacturing development of Nebraska.

The best posted authority on manufacturing conditions in recent years was Hon. Frank I. Ringer, of Lincoln, who died in 1920, after having spent many years contributing to the upbuilding of the success of the Nebraska Manufacturers' Association and manufacturing conditions generally in Nebraska.

MANUFACTURERS OF NEBRASKA

By Frank I. Ringer, Commissioner, Nebraska Manufacturers' Association

Every person in Nebraska knows that this state is one of the leading agricultural states of the Union, that in wealth per capita she is one of the first and that her public school system is second to none. Yet how little is known of the manufacturers.

How many people know that the annual output of the state's factories is valued at more than a half billion? Or that shoe strings, suspenders, and spark plugs are made in Omaha, index tags at Exeter, refrigerators minus corners at Fremont, dandelion rakes at Kearney, butter tubs at Ralston, rubber collars at Lincoln and chewing gum at Fairbury?

But these are only a few of the more unusual industries. Besides these we have some 4,000 factories engaged in a wide variety of industries and utilizing a large proportion of the raw materials produced within the state.

The four sugar factories located at Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard will this year convert the beets from more than 50,000 acres of Nebraska's finest land into 1,700,000 sacks of sugar, valued at \$20,000,000.

One of the valuable by-products from these factories is the potash which is obtained by evaporating the water used in washing the beets during the sugar season. Thousands of cattle and sheep are fattened annually on the by-products—beet tops, pulp, and molasses.

We boast of Omaha as being the largest dairy product market in the world and Lincoln claims one of the world's largest creameries, owned and operated by Nebraskans, the Beatrice Creamery Company. In these huge plants and the smaller plants scattered over the state, the cream and milk from Nebraska's dairy herds is made into butter, cheese, and condensed milk, the value of which is greater than the combined wool and mutton output of any state in the Union.

A large part of our enormous wheat crop never leaves the state except in the form of flour, breakfast foods, crackers, macaroni, etc. Practically every town has its own flour mill, ranging in size from the small one-man mill to some of the largest and most up-to-date plants west of the Mississippi River. From these mills, besides supplying the home demand, flour is shipped to all parts of the world.

Large quantities of wheat are also used to supply the demand of such firms as the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company, the Iten Biscuit Company, the Skinner Manufacturing Company, and the Uncle Sam Breakfast Food Company of Omaha, the Gooch Milling Company of Lincoln, and the multitude of smaller concerns over the state. The Iten Biscuit Company operates the largest exclusive cracker factory west of Chicago, their daily output of crackers exceeding six carloads. The Skinner Manufacturing Company has long since proven that Nebraska and not Italy is the home of macaroni and is now known as the largest macaroni factory in the world, and the product of the Uncle Sam Breakfast Food Company is known across the seas.

Another important branch of the industry is alfalfa milling. There are a number of plants scattered throughout the state of which M. C. Peters Mills Company of Omaha is perhaps the largest. These mills annually produce thousands of tons of alfalfa meal, valued at over \$5,000,000, which is distributed over Nebraska and neighboring states.

As a live stock market Omaha ranks second, and as a meat market and packing center, third in the world. Seven large packing companies and a number of smaller concerns maintain plants in this city with an output during the year 1918 valued at \$288,820,787.

Candy factories, canning factories, dehydrating plants and soda water factories are thriving industries and consume enormous quantities of Nebraska grown fruits, vegetables, and sugar.

Ready-to-wear clothing is made in a dozen factories and Nebraska-made boots, shoes, and hats are known in practically every state.

Farm implements, pumps, mills, and harness are made in quantities and a ready market is found not only in Nebraska and the other states, but in Canada and South America as well. At least three manufacturers of gas engines, trucks, auto bodies, and repairs enjoy a profitable foreign trade.

Although few in number, the brass and iron foundries and sheet metal works of the state, collectively do an extensive business and ship their products over a wide area. The railroads are, perhaps, the largest consumers.

The war seriously affected producers of building material but the present building activity finds them running full blast once more and in difficulties supplying the local demand, for brick, tile, cement and structural steel. Some of the finest and largest deposits of sand and clay in the west are found in Nebraska and her people are well acquainted with the sand dredges and the brick and tile factories.

It is not long since all engraving, lithographing, binding and printing was sent out of the state. There is no further occasion to do so now, for Nebraska plants are equipped with the most modern machinery and the latest methods of production. Steel plate engraving, lithographing and book binding and publishing are now important industries.

Several well-known incubators are made in the state as at Clay Center, Lincoln, Wayne, Fremont, and Omaha, and distributed from Cape Town to Hong Kong.

Stock feeds and hog cholera serums are made in Lincoln, Ralston, Red Cloud and a half-dozen other places.

Boxes and bags for the shipping of Nebraska products are made at home and our Nebraska soldiers were sheltered by tents from their own state.

Although the activities of our many potash factories were somewhat deranged with the end of the war, they are rapidly returning to normal and will soon, as before the war, be producing sixty per cent of the potash output of the states. There are eighteen small potash plants and nine large plants in Nebraska. There is a large Portland cement plant in successful operation at Superior, Nebraska.

Nebraska has one of the largest smelting and refining plants in the United States with an output in 1918 valued at \$48,000,000.

Although there is very little broom corn raised in the state, the largest broom manufacturers in the states, the Lee Broom and Duster Company, is located at Lincoln and another huge plant is at Deshler.

The only floor tile manufactured west of Indiana is made in Lincoln.

Nebraska-made cigars find their way into practically every state and Nebraska-made toilet preparations can be found in shops on Fifth Avenue.

Although Nebraska may never equal some of her eastern sisters in the manufactures, she is only beginning. The past ten years has seen a phenomenal growth and with our unlimited production of raw material and excellent transportation

facilities the coming years will bring even greater advancement in this line of development.

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETS

RAILROADS AND INTERURBANS

By H. G. Taylor, State Railway Commissioner

Mileage and Distribution. Nebraska is comparatively well served with railroads, having 6,742 miles of main line and approximately five hundred miles of double track. This is equivalent to a mile of road for every 200 people. Unlike Iowa, the Nebraska railroads are unequally distributed geographically, due to the greater density of population in the eastern part, 72 per cent of the population being in a territory in the eastern end comprising only 29 per cent of the total square miles. In this 29 per cent territory there are 3,255 miles of road, which is almost 52 per cent of the entire state mileage. In an area comprising 42 per cent of the square miles, there are 4,392 miles, or 66 per cent of the total road, and in an area in the western end of the state comprising 58 per cent of the total square miles there are 1,472 miles of road, or less than 24 per cent. In the 29 per cent territory, the average distance from a railroad station is seven miles. In the remaining 71 per cent of the area, the average distance is fourteen miles.

Railroad Systems. Seven railroad systems operate in the state, namely, Chicago & Northwestern; Union Pacific; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Missouri Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, and the St. Joseph & Grand Island. The latter road is now a subsidiary of and operated under the Union Pacific management. The C., St. P., M. & O. has a close relationship with the C. & N. W. Other railroads have terminals in Omaha.

New Lines. There are territories in the state, notably in the middle-western and northwestern part, capable of great development, that are not reached by railroad. Construction of new lines and extension of existing lines has been very limited in the past ten years. The extension of the Union Pacific from O'Fallons up the valley of the North Platte to Gering and later to the Nebraska line is the longest extension constructed in recent years. When the Union Pacific acquired control of the St. J. & G. I. it built a connecting line from Gibbon to Hastings, over which it has diverted a large amount of freight traffic to and from Kansas City and the south. A Burlington cut-off recently built from the Ashland-Sioux City line of the Burlington to the main line at Chalco shortens the distance between Omaha and Sioux City.

Tonnage and Revenue.—A hasty survey of statistics filed by the railroads with the State Railway Commission presents graphically the extent of the transportation business in Nebraska, and at the same time offers concrete evidence of the rapid development of the state. For the purpose of comparison, the figures for the years 1908 and 1916 are used. In 1908, the total revenue tons carried aggregated 17,029,344 while in 1916, the tonnage had increased to 26,521,203 tons, or over 55 per cent. The gross revenue from all sources in 1908 was \$30,639,859.00 but by 1916 it had doubled, being \$62,124,463.00. The total expense in 1908 was \$19,333,480.00 and \$37,066,418.00 in 1916, this leaving a net income in 1908 of \$11,335,844.00, which grew to \$25,356,090.00 in 1916.

Livestock and Grain Shipment—In 1908 the railroads forwarded 58,967 cars of livestock in the state. In 1916 they forwarded 78,158 cars, or a gain of about 33 per cent. The shipment of grain and grain products forwarded reflect the same satisfactory increase. In 1908 41,147 cars were shipped while in 1916 the number reached 52,041, or a 26 per cent increase. These figures indicate a greatly increased production of agricultural products in the nine years covered. Comparison of other commodities would disclose the same rapid progress in the development of the state's great resources.

Passenger Traffic—The general prosperity of the state during this period is further reflected by the statistics with reference to passenger traffic. In 1908, 8,622,627 passengers were carried in the state, paying a total revenue of \$5,078,999. In 1916, 10,460,663 passengers paid \$6,024,075. This represents a gain of twenty-one per cent in passengers carried and eighteen per cent in revenue received.

Rate Situation—The rate situation in the state, as elsewhere in the United States, has been somewhat chaotic since the railroads were taken over by the Federal Government. The final disposition of the roads, should, however, correct this condition. Prior to 1914, the rate structure rather favored certain specific jobbing points, but in that year the Railway Commission promulgated a schedule of class rates that served to equalize conditions. Subsequently, this was somewhat interfered with by an order of the Interstate Commerce Commission, but on the whole, the situation, as it stood at the time the United States entered the war, permitted a free and unrestricted development of any community so far as freight rates constituted a factor in that development. As industries develop, of course rates must be adjusted to meet their changing needs. The rate structure normally is sufficiently elastic to permit of growth.

From the foregoing facts, it would appear that Nebraska is well favored and that the development of the state's tremendous resources will not be seriously limited in any way by a lack of transportation.

STREET AND INTERURBAN RAILWAYS

There are approximately 220 miles of street and interurban railway in Nebraska, operated by seven companies. Of this mileage, 129 is operated by the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway Company and 58 by the Lincoln Traction Company. The other companies, largely interurban in their character, are as follows: Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice; Omaha & Southern Interurban Railway; Lincoln, Capital Beach & Milford; Omaha & Lincoln Railway & Light; and the Bethany Traction. The seven systems carried 88,395,179 passengers in 1916, of which 68,432,670 were passengers paying fare, the remaining being non-paying passengers. It is interesting to compare these figures with the showing for 1908. In that year the total number of passengers carried was 51,182,242, of which 50,680,499 paid fare and 501,743 were non-paying. The gross revenue in 1908 amounted to \$2,711,238.00. In 1916 it had increased to \$3,931,735.00. These figures indicate the growth of the state's two largest cities and their environs. They show that the number of passengers per mile of road has practically doubled.

The development of interurbans has been somewhat slow, but the next few years will probably witness considerable building of that kind. Lines have been

surveyed to connect the principal cities in the eastern part of the state, the Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice being one of these.

THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

By R. E. Mattison, of the Lincoln Telephone Company.

There are more than two hundred and fifty thousand telephones in Nebraska or one to a little less than five persons; 290 companies maintain exchanges and 70 or 80 rural lines are built, owned, and operated by farmers. Between twenty-five million and forty million dollars of capital is invested in the telephone business. The telephone industry is important because the network of wires with their universal connection serve to weld the state into an economic and social unit whose solidity would be otherwise impossible.

The Nebraska (Bell) Telephone Company, the pioneer company, is the largest. It operates about 88,000 telephones. The Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company operates close to sixty-six thousand phones. Six other companies operate over fifteen thousand telephones. These are the Monroe, the Hamilton County, the Farmers of Dodge County, the Glenwood, the Kearney, the Platte County, the Southeast Nebraska, the Platte Valley, and the Wyoming and Nebraska companies. Dozens of companies operate several exchanges.

Of the 290 companies in the state, 218 are stock companies or mutuals which sell exchange service and are, therefore, required to make annual reports to the State Railway Commission and are under jurisdiction with respect to rates and service. The number under supervision is 230,000. To this number, at least twenty-five thousand should be added to cover those connected with the mutual and switching lines.

The better quality of telephone apparatus now in use in the state has made possible the complete linking up of practically all exchanges by toll lines that do a tremendous yearly business, and which connect not only all Nebraska towns with each other, but give a nation-wide service to every phone user.

Rural Lines—Development of rural lines has been greater and the point of saturation nearer reached in some vicinities than in the cities. Many of the original lines built in 1900 were first made up of wires strung on fence posts or on two-by-fours nailed to the tops of fence posts. Most of these have disappeared and through co-operative effort in hauling poles, digging holes for them and helping put them in place, a much higher grade of rural service is given.

MINERAL RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director, Conservation and Soil Survey.

Nebraska has higher rank in production from these resources than is generally supposed. Among the important resources are sand, stone, clay, volcanic ash, and potash. There are small deposits of coal, and prospecting for oil and gas is being done at a number of places.

SAND RESOURCES

The sand resources have been investigated and published by the State Geological Survey and the State Conservation and Soil Survey. A report of about two hundred pages, now out of print, was prepared by the writer and published by the Geological Survey, and Bulletin 6 of the Conservation and Soil Survey is available for distribution as long as it lasts.

The sand resources of Nebraska are widely distributed. The largest deposits, along the Platte, are worked in open pits and by dredging and pumping. Sand and gravel of good quality are produced from this.

COAL IN NEBRASKA

The greatest drawback in Nebraska is a lack of fuel. Coal occurs plentifully in all bordering states from which it is shipped. There are a number of thin seams of coal in Nebraska in the Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous formations, but none of them are now worked. Several years ago, drifts were opened on thin beds along the Missouri and in the southern parts of Richardson and Pawnee counties to mine coal for local use. Later a small mine was operated for a short time near Peru.

Beds of low-grade lignite have been encountered in artesian wells drilled into the Dakota Formation. A thick carbonaceous shale at the base of the Pierre Formation, exposed near the mouth of the Niobrara, and at places in the Republican Valley, has been mistaken for coal. It is now generally believed that the chance to discover coal of economic importance in Nebraska is small, as shown by a study of the geological formations and by drillings.

OIL AND GAS

The geology of the state is quite well known, except where there is a deep covering of mantle rock. Such knowledge as we have of the structure indicates that there is some chance for the discovery of oil and gas, yet the drillings in several counties have not made discoveries.

The State Conservation and Soil Survey has the duty of gathering and keeping the records of deep wells and is in close touch with prospecting. Wells were sunk the past two or three years at or near Table Rock, Red Cloud, Bassett, Stockville, in Banner County, and in South Dakota near the Sioux and Dawes County lines. Two wells completed at Table Rock extended into granite, and condemned what was thought to be the state's best structure and probable source of oil. The well near Stockville was abandoned at a depth of about two thousand five hundred feet. A string of tools was lost in the Bassett well at 2,000 feet and another location was made. Drilling at Red Cloud continued below 2,000 feet. The Prairie Oil and Gas Company, operating in Banner County with the best equipment ever used in the state, abandoned a test at a depth of 5,697 feet. Two tests were made about twenty-five miles northeast of Chadron. They encountered a small showing of gas. One of these wells was put down a number of years ago and the other was completed last year. A well-defined structure eighteen miles northeast of Chadron, and on the Nebraska side, will be tested within a year. This should contain oil and gas.

Deep wells have been drilled at Omaha, Rulo, Union, Nebraska City, Beatrice, Lincoln, Arapahoe, McCook, Lynch, Litchfield, Shelton, and Niobrara. Except those at Lincoln, Nebraska City, and Omaha the depths were not sufficient for oil and gas tests.

The western counties are known to be underlain with formations of the age of those which carry oil in Wyoming. It would seem that they might produce in Nebraska, but three conditions, somewhat unfavorable, are encountered. First, it is not possible to work the geology of the formations because of limited exposure. Second, the sands of the oil-bearing formations of Wyoming appear to thin out in the direction of Nebraska and eastern Colorado. Third, the depth in much of Nebraska will be greater than in Wyoming.

CLAY RESOURCES

There are a number of deposits of clay and silt in Nebraska, some suitable for the manufacture of brick and tile. Unfortunately a great deal of the best clay is thickly covered with mantle rock, making its working comparatively expensive. The silt occurs more favorably.

The clay deposits are in the Pennsylvania, Permian, Cretaceous, Tertiary, and later formations. Clays and shales, interbedded with limestone and exposed in the southeastern counties, are of Pennsylvania and Permian ages. Some of the exposures are worked, as at or near Nebraska City, Auburn, Humboldt, and Table Rock. The clays at Tekamah, Lincoln, Beatrice, Fairbury, and Steele City, are principally of Cretaceous age, occurring in the Dakota Formation. Clays of western Nebraska, belonging to the Tertiary formations, have been used for brick in a limited way. The drift deposits of the eastern counties and the loess deposits distributed so generally over the southeast half of the state are used in brick-making, but to best advantage when mixed with materials of finer texture. Brick plants operating on these deposits as at Hooper, Hastings, York, and Omaha, usually ship some clay from the Dakota Formation or from the clay-shale beds of the Pennsylvanian formations.

Brick Yards—There are thirty-six successful brick plants in Nebraska. The clay resources and strong demand for clay products warrant the expansion of brick and tile manufacture. The state produced 127,000,000 brick and tile (brick measure) in 1918, and 122,000,000 in 1919.

THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

Though lime was made at several places in the state during the early history, the manufacture of Portland cement was delayed until a few years ago, when a cement plant was built at Superior. It operated for a while, was abandoned one year, and rebuilt and enlarged. This plant, owned by the Nebraska Cement Company, is now in successful operation, producing high-grade cement. The capacity is to be enlarged to 2,500 barrels per day.

The cement materials of Nebraska are principally in the Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous formations. They are limestones, shales, and chalkrock. Some of the limestone members of the southeastern counties have been tested and found suitable for cement making. The Niobrara chalk and shales immediately below and above

it are the state's principal cement resources. The chalk is widely exposed along the Missouri between Knox and Cedar counties and in the Republican Valley, where it is here overlaid by Pierre shale and underlaid by Carlile shale.

Cement Plant at Superior—This large plant is located just west of Superior. The quarry is two and one-half miles south of the mill.

POTASH INDUSTRY

The potash industry of Nebraska grew up with the war. It advanced in three or four years to a point where the state produced about sixty per cent of the potash output in the United States. About ten million dollars was invested in plants and pipe lines. There were 300 miles of pipe lines, nine large plants operating, and eighteen small plants operating or building when the armistice was signed. The daily production was about five hundred tons of crude potash.

During the war Nebraska potash was shipped to the eastern and southeastern states and to Porto Rico and Cuba for use in fertilizers. It was without doubt an important factor in increasing agricultural production and thereby a factor in winning the war. Just what may be done at Washington to assist the potash industry cannot be foretold at this time. It will be necessary to protect the industry for a time against foreign production, and it seems that this will be done. A low tariff or subsidy would insure a permanent potash industry for the United States

CHAPTER XV

OUTLINE OF AUTHORITIES

It has been possible, even in a review of the extent herein undertaken, to cover only a fraction of the points of interest in Nebraska history. Also, many points herein are only treated fully enough to arouse the genuine interest of the reader, and cause him or her to desire a further research. To fill this need, it is now purposed to close this review with a short outline of authorities upon Nebraska history to which the reader may go for further reference or more extended treatment of the various points.

There is one man who has devoted many years of his time to a careful, conscientious research of Nebraska history, who is now historian of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This thorough student, Albert Watkins, a few years ago prepared an outline of authorities, which will be taken in part and herein incorporated, with a few more recent authorities added.

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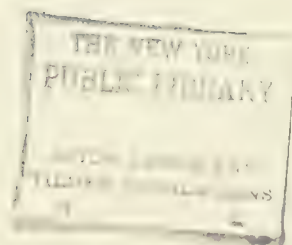
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HISTORY
OF
YORK COUNTY





THERON EMMONS SEDGWICK

CHAPTER I

THE STORY OF YORK COUNTY

PHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE COUNTY—THE SOIL—LOESS PLAIN SOILS—CLIMATE —
EASTER STORM OF 1873 —THE BLIZZARD OF 1888—LATER STORMS—THE GROWTH
OF YORK COUNTY (CENSUS FIGURES, 1920 AND PRIOR).

Coming from the story of the state of Nebraska, just covered in the preceding pages, we come to the story of one of the "stars in the constellation of ninety-three stars that form Nebraska's canopy."

A considerable part of the story which follows has been unconsciously compiled and narrated by the people of York County themselves. For many years the Old Settlers Historical Association of York County carefully considered, narrated and rehearsed the stories of the settlement, development and growth of their beloved county, until along about 1913 the officers conceived the glorious idea of putting this valuable information in print before it was too late. So in 1913 they placed before the people of York County a little book called "The Old Settlers' History" of York County. In making their research for the material to compile and narrate the story of York County the editorial board of this work found they could not improve upon the work done by the noble set of pioneers, so we have tried to perpetuate that work by giving it to you, as far as it reaches, and then fill out what they did not find. Of course, it is impossible within the limited space that can be allotted to tell the full story of every phase of the county's activities, and the selection of material has necessarily had to be confined to such available data as will tend to show how each result achieved in the county came about, and to whom belongs the credit for the present stage of progress.

But it is desired at this point to perpetuate the roster of officers of the Old Settlers' Association in 1913, who were largely the men upon whom fell the burden of the task above mentioned. John Lett, president, George B. France, vice president, N. A. Dean, treasurer, George F. Corcoran, secretary, and J. P. Miller, Robert Copsey, Robert Henderson and M. Sovereign, executive committee. These men and a few faithful assistants, such as Miss Arminda Gilmore, Mrs. W. E. Morgan, and Blanche Hammond we may thank for the completeness with which the early memoirs of York County are preserved.

PHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE COUNTY.

York County is located in the southeastern part of the state, in the third tier of counties north of the Kansas line and the fourth tier of counties west of the Missouri River. It is bounded on the north by Polk, east by Seward, south by Fillmore, and west by Hamilton County. There are 5,764 square miles, or 368,954 acres, at an average elevation above sea level of 1,600 feet. Ten per cent

of the county is valley, and the balance mostly undulating prairie. There is scarcely any land too rough for tillage. The soil is a black vegetable mould, everywhere deep, rich and productive. Wide, fertile valleys extend the entire length of the larger streams, while the fine table lands are drained by gentle draws or ravines. Water is obtainable anywhere at a depth varying from twenty to sixty feet. There are numerous streams coursing through the county, which afford abundant power for flouring mills and other manufacturing establishments, the principal ones of which are Beaver and Lincoln creeks and West Blue River, all of them flowing from west to east, and on them are already located several first-class mills. Besides the light growth of natural timber along the streams, there are several thousand acres of forest trees, planted during the early settlement of the county, which are now of sufficient growth to furnish fuel.

A very comprehensive, and for those days elaborate, account of the physical features of York County was prepared in February, 1882, by T. E. Sedgwick. This will serve, even at this late date, to introduce to the reader a pictorial panorama of the topography, climate and soil qualities of York County. Some of these points will be considerably elaborated in later chapters.

"The West Blue River traverses the southern portion of the county, running a zigzag course, the general direction being from west to east. The stream furnishes excellent water power, and there are now located upon it some of the best mills in the state, three of them being in York County. There are a number of mill sites along the Blue yet unoccupied.

"Beaver Creek crosses the west line of the county near its center north and south, and runs nearly due east about half way across the county, when it turns southward and runs in a southeasterly direction until it meets the West Blue about one and one-half miles east of the county line. There is one small mill at present on the Beaver in York County, which is located near the City of York. Lincoln Creek also traverses the north half of the county from west to east, and furnishes a number of good mill sites within the county. There is already one fine mill upon this creek, and the proprietor is building another upon the same stream.

"The Blue River, the least important of the four streams mentioned, traverses the northeast portion of the county. These streams are not "mighty rivers rushing madly to the sea;" not at all; but they are large enough for boys to bathe in, and they furnish water for stock and to drive machinery, all the year round. They are skirted by a belt of timber, in some places very light, and heavier in others. The valleys traversed by these streams are very beautiful and in many places the view is almost enchanting. Those who talk of the dull and lifeless scenery of the western plains have never visited this county, or have no appreciation of the beautiful.

THE SOIL

"The soil throughout the entire county is uniformly rich and productive. The divides or uplands seem equally fertile with the valleys, and wherever in the county land is well farmed, and crops are well tended, a good yield is almost assured. Since the first settlement of the county, a failure of crops has never been experienced here. We do not mean to say that every year there has been a good yield of all varieties of products. There have been partial failures of one or more

of the cereals, but there has always been a harvest, and since the first severe trials incident to the settlement of a new country have been surmounted, the county has been more than self-supporting. But these trials and privations which have always attended the pioneer have been reported to our eastern friends as incidents peculiar to this western country, and have cast a shadow over the entire history of this and all other counties of our state.

"There are people in the East now—and they are no insignificant minority—who actually believe that the wind blows here a perpetual tornado, transporting everything that is loose; that it never rains and seldom sprinkles here; that the grasshoppers make us annual visits, devouring what wind and drought have not destroyed. The same could be told with equal truth of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, or any other western state. Minnesota has suffered more than three times as much from grasshoppers as our state ever has, while in Iowa, Kansas and Wisconsin their ravages have been greater than here. We feel safe in saying that twenty-five per cent of the last crop of this county would amount to more than all that has ever been destroyed by grasshoppers within its limits. So much for this great bugbear.

"We have a good, copious rainfall every year, and the soil and subsoil are such that the earth is always moist just below the surface. No matter how dry the air, or how hot the sun, if one takes the trouble to look, he will find moisture an inch or two below the surface. So it is that during a long, dry season, when crops in other states are literally burned up and killed, they continue to grow and look green and healthy here. We say candidly that the South Platte country is less affected with drought than any section we have ever seen in any state. The record will bear us out in the statement that Nebraska has suffered less in the last decade from winds and severe storms than any other state west of Lake Michigan. Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas have all suffered considerably from cyclones during the last few years, but none has ever disturbed the peaceful rest of this South Platte country. The wind does blow here some, and we would hardly desire, even if it were possible, to live in a country where it did not. In summer, a fresh, cooling breeze starts up at about the setting of the sun, which cools the atmosphere, insomuch that there is very seldom a night, even in the warmest weather, in which one cannot sleep comfortably. So vastly different from the sultry nights through which we have sweat and suffered in states farther east. The winters are usually short, and very little really cold weather is experienced. We have some very sharp weather, but only for two or three days at a time."

In an early chapter of the state section of this work, a very elaborated and detailed analysis of the soil survey of Nebraska is incorporated. No separate soil survey of York County, as an individual unit, has been completed and published at the time this work is being finished, so we will simply refer again to the particular class of soil most common, and refer the reader to the general soil survey of the state for further data on this important and valuable phase.

LOESS PLAIN SOILS

The plains are mantled with twenty-five to about one hundred feet of silt loam, known as the plains loess, the texture of which is quite uniform, but becomes

somewhat lighter westward and on knolls. The loess is not a soil. It is one of the richest soil-forming deposits, and through slight modifications gives rise to some of the state's most uniform and productive silt loam, very fine sandy loam, and fine sandy loam soils. The principal soils developed upon the plains loess are the Grundy silt loam, Holdrege silt loam, Colby silt loam, and Scott silt loam. Some of the small areas in Dodge, Wayne, and other northeastern counties are occupied by the Marshall silt loam (flat phase). The loess plains are dark silt loam soil areas.

The Grundy silt loam occupies most of the eastern and central upland plains as in Butler, Polk, York, Hamilton, Fillmore, Saline, and Clay counties and parts of Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Adams, Howard, Gage, Cass, Madison, and several other counties. Formerly, it was called the "flat phase" of the Marshall silt loam. The surface soil is a dark brown, heavy silt loam, eight to fifteen inches deep, friable and rich in organic matter. The upper subsoil consists of brown silt loam, considerably heavier than the surface soil and passes abruptly into dark, heavy clay mottled with yellow and brown. This heavy part of the subsoil, sometimes called "hard pan" or "gumbo," is underlaid with a more friable part of the subsoil passing gradually into the unmodified loess. The Grundy soils grade locally between silt loam and clay loam. The silt loam, however, has the larger distribution.

The Grundy soils grow wheat, corn, alfalfa, oats, and other leading crops and support stock raising. Much of the land is in cultivation.

CLIMATE

The climate is milder than the same latitude east of us. The wells of York County furnish a bounteous supply of very nice, soft water. Though the water varies somewhat in different wells, and that, too, in wells located in the same vicinity and neighborhood, yet the water in all of them is very clear and cool, and in most of them quite soft, so much so that well water is used for laundry purposes, without breaking. Wells range from twenty to one hundred feet in depth, according to the altitude of the surface, as the water is found in all parts of the county at or near the same level. A great many farmers have windmills for raising the water, which are also utilized by some of them to grind feed, turn grindstones, fanning-mills and corn-shellors.

EASTER STORM OF 1873.

The first great devastating storm to leave its imprint permanently branded upon Nebraska's climatical history was that of 1873. That spring had opened early, the farmers had their fields plowed and harrowed and had even sowed oats and spring wheat as unusually early as February and much in March. By the opening days of April the grass was nicely green. The prairies were, of course, unhampered with fences, hedges and trees to any extent, to break winds or catch snows. The settlers had been lulled into carelessness, and Sunday, April 13th, a delightfully mild Easter day ushered in with total unpreparedness for its finish. On that afternoon a rain started up, followed by a heavy thunderstorm by 4 o'clock. The story of this storm can best be told by those who went through the terrible ordeal.

Judge Charles B. Letton, of the Nebraska Supreme Court, who was then living at Fairbury, described for the "Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences" issued by the Nebraska Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the following description of this ordeal:

"The fury of the tempest was indescribable. The air appeared to be a mass of moving snow, and the wind howled like a pack of furies. I managed to get to the granary for some oats, but on looking into the ravine no stable was to be seen, only an immense snow drift which almost filled it. At the point where the door to the stable should have been there appeared a hole in the drift where the snow was eddying. On crawling into this I found that during the night the snow had drifted in around the horses and cattle, which were tied to the manger. The animals had tramped it under their feet to such an extent that it had raised them so that in places their backs, lifted the flimsy roof, and the wind carrying much of the covering away, had filled the stable with snow until some of them were almost and others wholly buried, except where the remains of the roof protected them."

York County was, of course, in the path of the storm, as well as Jefferson, and the following account of the effects of the storm narrated by Judge Letton applies with equal force to York County.

"Many settlers took their cattle and horses into their houses or dugouts in order to save them. Every ravine and hollow that ran in an easterly or westerly direction was filled with snow from rim to rim. In other localities cattle were driven many miles by this storm. Houses, or rather shacks, were unroofed and people in them frozen to death. Travelers caught in the blizzard, who attempted to take refuge in ravines, perished and their stiffened bodies were found when the drifts melted weeks afterwards. Stories were told of people who had undertaken to go from their houses to their outbuildings and who, being blinded by the snow, became lost and either perished or nearly lost their lives, and of others where the settler in order to reach his well or his outbuildings in safety fastened a rope to the door and went into the storm holding the rope in order to insure his safe return. Deer, antelope, and other wild animals perished in the more sparsely settled districts. The storm lasted for three days, not always of the same intensity, and freezing weather followed for a day or two thereafter. In a few days the sun shone, the snow melted, and spring reappeared; the melting drifts, that lay for weeks in some places, being the only reminder of the severity of the storm.

"To old settlers in Nebraska and northern Kansas this has ever since been known as 'The Easter Storm.' In the forty-six years that I have lived in Nebraska there has only been one other winter storm that measurably approached it in intensity. This was the blizzard of 1888, when several people lost their lives. At that time, however, people were living in comfort; trees, hedges, groves, stubble, and cornfields held the snow so that the drifts were insignificant in comparison. The cold was more severe but the duration of the storm was less and no such widespread suffering took place."

Many references and short narrations of experiences of York County pioneers in this storm, and that of 1888 also, will be scattered through the pages which follow, but we will at this point include one rather detailed account of a York County pioneer.

THE GREAT EASTER STORM

"One great event in the early history of York County that stands out most prominent of all, and never to be forgotten while an early settler is alive, is the awful storm that began the evening of Sunday, April 12, 1873. The spring had been early and small grain was all up, and farmers had their spring work well under way. The weather had been dry and the wind blowing strong from the south for more than a week, and Sunday, April 12th, the wind quieted down and the day was pleasant until in the afternoon a bank of heavy clouds made their appearance in the northwest. Soon there began a heavy rain and as night approached the rain turned into sleet, and then to snow, then for three days and nights without a moment's cessation the storm raged in all its fury, with the air so full of whirling snow, it was impossible to see an object scarcely a rod away. Fortunate for the early settlers that their dwellings were mostly sod houses, or dugouts, and in the place of being blown away they were most likely to be snowed under, which happened in many cases; in several instances the settlers took their meager stock in the sod houses with them and all lived together for three days. Many interesting incidents have been related by persons who experienced such a strange make-up of families, and although the milk and eggs were handy none have desired a repetition of the novelty. After the storm was over the neighbors who were not snowed in had interesting experiences digging their neighbors out of their dugouts; one family that was snowed under in a dugout held a conversation with their rescuers through the stovepipe, which stuck up through the snow, and showed them where to dig down for the door by running the broom handle up through the snow. The writer went to one dugout where nothing but the stovepipe was visible, and halloed down through the stovepipe and asked the owner what he was doing. He promptly answered he was reading the B. & M. advertisements about the beautiful climate of Nebraska. Mrs. Capt. Read tells us that Andy Hansen, a Dane, had a homestead on section 32 in Thayer Township, and had built him a comfortable sod house on the south side of the draw, front door opening to the north, and that he was away from home when the storm came, and that the storm blew the front door open, and when Mr. Hansen came home after the storm his house was so full of snow he could not find place for a dog to crawl in. In Thayer Township a band of Pawnee Indians came along after the storm and discovered some stock that had drifted to the creek in the storm and perished. The Indians immediately went into camp and remained as long as the supply of meat lasted. The Blue, near the west line of the county, was literally full of dead stock that had drifted as was supposed from the Platte River bottoms. Mr. John Davis, who had settled in Leroy Township, did not have his stable up when the storm came, and his stock, which was tied to the wagon, all perished. Much stock was lost under similar conditions. Our townsman, N. A. Dean, had his stable built under a bank; in one end of the stable were two mules, in the center horses, and in the other end hogs and chickens; the snow kept drifting in, and the mules tramping to keep on top until they got up to the roof and broke through and went out, the hogs and chickens in the other end were snowed under at least twenty-five feet deep, and Mr. Dean was surprised when on digging them out a week later found them all alive and hungry. As far as known only three lives were lost in the storm in York County: one, the fifteen year old son of J. S. Gray, in

Arberville Township; the boy was trying to carry a sack of corn from the barn to the house, missed the house and was not found until the storm was over; the other two deaths occurred in Henderson Township. A Mr. Frank Kailey had built a log house, but had not had time to chink it up when the storm came, and the first night of the storm the house drifted half full of snow. The stove and beds were under snow; they thought they must go to one of the neighbors and they started, Mr. and Mrs. Kailey and their baby boy. Mrs. Kailey soon gave out in the deep snow and awful storm, and Mr. Kailey tried to carry his wife and baby on his back but only went a short distance and gave up exhausted. He then left his wife and baby and went for help, but never found them till he found their dead bodies in the snow drift where he had left them when he went for help. His homestead was the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 30, township 9, range 4."

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888

The next great landmark in the climatical history of Nebraska was the terrible storm of January 2, 1888. That came in the middle of a winter of unusual intensity, when Nebraska and South Dakota were visited with storms of unusual ferocity. This storm is recounted to have broken with unusual suddenness and fury, and many were there who did not live to tell of its ravages. A mist had fallen through the preceding night, and just a gentle wind from the south. Before noon the frost had disappeared and an early clearing of the sky was evident. But suddenly came a terrific storm blast bearing down upon the open prairies. The thermometer soon went down to twenty-five degrees below and the snow came so fast and drifted so swiftly that those people who were caught away from home were unable to make their return. In many instances it was days and days before they could return to their homes, or if fortunate to be there at the fateful moment, to venture away from the place.

This storm was made notable by three heroic stories that stood out among the many incidents of fatalities. Of the innumerable stories standing out from this tragic event, while none of them affected York County locally, the stories of three Nebraska country school teachers—Loie Royce of Plainfield, Etta Shattuck of Holt County, and Minnie Freeman of Valley County were the subject of much newspaper record and worthy of a place in these annals.

Minnie Freeman Penney in "Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences" has told these three stories in such compact form that we can well afford to record them here, in her words:

"Miss Royce had nine pupils. Six went home for luncheon and remained on account of the storm. The three remaining pupils with the teacher stayed in the schoolhouse until three o'clock. Their fuel gave out, and as her boarding house was but fifteen rods away, the teacher decided to take the children home with her.

"In the fury of the storm they wandered and were lost. Darkness came, and with it death. One little boy sank into eternal silence. The brave little teacher stretched herself out on the cold ground and cuddled the two remaining ones closer. Then the other little boy died and at daylight the spirit of the little girl, aged seven, fluttered away, leaving the young teacher frozen and numb with agony. Loie Royce 'hath done what she could; angels can do no better.' Miss Royce lost both feet by amputation.

Storm Starts in Fillmore County

Grafton, in Fillmore County, is about ten miles due south of Luskton. The storm is believed to have formed in the territory lying between the two towns. It traveled northeast across York and Seward counties, working havoc on farm properties and trees, threatening the village of McCool, but doing harm only on the northern edge of the town. As it proceeded eastward it evidently gained in fury and the city of Seward felt the effects of the worst. York was untouched save for a terrible downpour of rain and hail accompanied by a severe electrical storm. Telephone and telegraph service was interrupted on all lines of wire running south and east and several hours passed before any accurate news was received concerning the damage wrought by the storm. Messages which came round by Hastings were responsible for the belief that McCool was in ruins and that Waco had been struck. The community of Blue Vale was reported devastated. The utmost anxiety was felt by York people for relatives and friends in the territory over which the storm was thought to have passed. In the meantime people living in the south part of the county, who knew that the cyclone cloud had moved northeast, were feeling similar alarm for the safety of York people and those in the towns farther northeast. Telephone operators made a record for patience and kindness in their efforts to establish communication between worried people and to obtain news from apparently inaccessible places. Late in the evening accurate information began to reach York through the medium of persons who drove across country in the darkness and mud; but until a late hour telephone calls were keeping the wires busy in all directions. Train service on the Burlington was not disabled and though telegraph wires were out of commission the evening trains came through on time bringing the story of wrecked homes and many dead and injured in Seward. Thursday morning brought fuller information: but most York people went to bed Wednesday night with more accurate knowledge of conditions in Seward, thirty miles away, than they had concerning points ten and twelve miles distant in their own county.

McCool Feels the Wind

Residents of south York County and of McCool had the great advantage of seeing the approaching storm in ample time to seek shelter. Had the clouds worked under cover of darkness there might have been greater loss of life. In McCool many barns were blown over, and small out buildings wrecked, but the little home of Thomas Reardon was the only one carried away. The members of the family, including the father, mother and several children, were all more or less bruised; but with the exception of one child will, it is thought, recover rapidly from the effects of their hard experience. Their lost household goods and clothing have been replaced through the kindness of neighbors and the people of McCool will see to it that they have a chance to start life over. Not far from the spot where the Reardon residence used to stand is the big farm house of Joe Culbertson. That it is still there is one of the unexplainable things for the windows are broken, shingles are torn from the roof in patches and porches are wrecked. Every barn and building on the place, with the numerous trees, show the ravages of the storm. Mr. Culbertson lost valuable stock. Theodore Lantz, living a mile

west of the Culbertson place, took refuge with his family in a cellar under the house. The building was lifted and the foundation stones rolled into the basement, but the refugees were untouched.

Timber Devastated

Down the river for several miles below McCool the twister can be traced by uprooted and broken trees. The growth of many decades was destroyed or stunted in a few seconds. Sometimes the very leaves were stripped from the twigs and the bark from the limbs. It will take nature a long time to undo the work of her fit of ill temper. Twisted and broken trees, damaged houses, shattered wind mills and wrecked barns mark the path of the wind across the country. The house of Ernie Weingert, one half mile north of Blue Vale, was lifted from the foundation, carried across the road over two fences and spread out in the pasture much as one would take a bunch of cards and scatter them. Visitors to the farm of William Blum, a mile east of the Weingert place, might well question whether either house or barn or granary had ever been on the place, so entirely obliterated are all traces of human habitation. Only the splintered remains of a new wagon, some twisted pieces of iron from what was once farm machinery, split boards and leafless trees remain on the plot of ground which was the site of the farm home. The cyclone cave, as was the case at the Weingert home, saved the lives of the family. There are chickens walking about the Blum farm from which the feathers were blown by the wind. Any attempt to describe the tricks played by the cyclone would lead to endless stories, but the evidences of manifestations of awful power are more wonderful than any of the freakish results of that power.

Paul Geyser's Story

A quarter of a mile east of the Blum farm lives Paul Geyser. Mr. Geyser was in the field at work when he saw the cloud approaching. He started for home, noting that his neighbor Blum who was in an adjoining field did the same thing. Having housed his team Mr. Geyser, who was alone on his place made for his cyclone cellar. As he stood in the door of the cave watching the approach of the cloud he looked across the ravine to the Blum farm and wondered if Mr. Blum had gotten in from the field. Mr. Geyser realized perfectly that a tornado was upon him but was so fascinated by the appearance of the cloud that he could not leave off looking to hide in the cave. While he stood thus he saw the home of his neighbor rise in the air, windows unbroken, porches intact and chimney pointing straight up. For what seemed a distance of forty feet upwards Mr. Geyser saw the house as plainly as he had ever seen it. Then suddenly it seemed to disappear in a cloud of dust and almost instantly broken timbers and splintered boards began to rain about him. Then he started down the steps to the cave, still looking upwards. The last sight to greet his eyes was that of his own spotted shetland pony sailing through the air, in an upright position. After the storm Mr. Geyser found the shetland, alive and sound, in a pasture three or four hundred feet on the other side of the house. The animal was badly scratched as if it had been belabored with some sharp instrument, but otherwise shows no signs of its unusual experience. When the wind had passed by Mr. Geyser hastened to his neighbor's cave, for that

was all that was left of the comfortable Blum homestead. He found that the family had all taken refuge in the cave with the exception of a little daughter who had not returned from school. The mother was frantic with grief until the child was found at the house of a neighbor where she had taken refuge on her way home. The buildings on the Geyser place were shaken and damaged but are all there.

Anxious Moments

The stories of those who watched the strange and terrible cloud approaching do not differ greatly. There was time, which is often denied to dwellers in towns and cities under similar circumstances, to prepare for the worst so far as possible. Men and women gathered their children about them, in some instances taking time to gather valuables and supply the family with heavy wraps, before seeking safety. In other cases fathers and mothers thought only of the welfare of their children and did not try to secure papers, money or jewelry. Those who lost their earthly possessions, but still have their loved ones are not doing much complaining.

"Black" is the word used most by those who attempt to describe the appearance of the cloud. The familiar funnel shape was not visible to many. The death dealing cloud had rather the form of a heavy, dark curtain extending from sky to earth and moving in the center of other lighter clouds. The fearful roar of the storm was heard by persons at a distance of several miles. There was little wind before it passed over, though rain and hail fell plentifully. From southeast of Waco huge hailstones are reported which had spikes of ice as adjuncts. Some of the heaviest sufferers from the tornado in York County are Elias Baker, Clark Hendricks, Theodore Lantz, Natt Graham, Joe Culbertson, Tom. Reardon, Geo. McFadden, Mrs. Clara Prest, Mrs. Thomas Pence, Ned Rea, Wm. Blum, Ercie Weingert, and Paul Geyser. The Weingert farm is owned by Oden Gilmore, of Exeter.

The tornado exceeded in destructive power the Bradshaw cyclone, which has long been known as the worst storm York County ever saw. Had the wind of May 14th wreaked its fury on a town, as in the case of Bradshaw, there is little doubt that the horrors of the first storm would have been surpassed.

The Storm of August 8, 1917

The heaviest and most destructive hail storm in the history of central Nebraska swept over York at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The Democrat was forced to press too early to make any adequate report of the storm. The damage wrought in the city of York will reach well above a hundred thousand dollars. Every window on the north side of all buildings were shattered, the electroliers are minus either lamps or globes, and flat roofs were punctured until they resemble sieves. The damage to merchandise alone will reach into the thousands. Hailstones as large as tennis balls fell with a force that punctured auto tops, and there are reports of many young cattle and hogs killed. Chickens were slaughtered by the hundreds. The streets were literally clogged with small branches stripped from the trees and hurled before the wind. Probably the heaviest damage to any single building in the city was visited upon the Congregational church. The hugh stained glass windows, costing hundreds of dollars were ruined beyond repair.

The hail havoc started just north of Arborville and swept to the south with a slight eastern slant. It seems to have covered a strip about four miles wide and from seven to nine miles long. Within that area the corn is utterly devastated, and shocked oats were beaten into the ground and fairly threshed. It is impossible to estimate the loss of crops, but it will be well above the half-million mark. The hailstorm was followed by a terrific downpour of rain.

People caught out in their autos were in deadly peril, for the huge hailstones, propelled by a fierce wind, had the effect of shrapnel. It is impossible that the storm passed without seriously if not fatally injuring a number of people. It is safe to assert that the storm caused a loss of three-quarters of a million dollars in the shape of growing crops, live stock, buildings and merchandise. In future all hail storms in central Nebraska will be measured by the awful storm of August 8, 1917.

In the city of York the damage wrought will mount well towards the hundred thousand dollar mark. Few indeed are the north windows that escaped destruction. The huge hailstones, propelled by a fierce wind that blew upwards of sixty miles an hour, had the force of bullets, and they ripped through shingles and flat roofs like shot through a paper hoop. Scarcely a roof in town escaped damage. The skylight in the Coob store building and the one in the Meehan building were smashed to bits, and the resultant leakage worked heavy damage to stocks. The same thing happened to a lesser extent to other store buildings and stocks. The M. E. Smith Co. sustained a heavy damage. Their manufacturing plant was full of cut goods waiting for the machines. The roof was punched as full of holes as a colander, and costly sewing machines and valuable material were damaged. This is probably the heaviest single damage to stock in the city. Doubtless the heaviest damage to any one building was that at the Congregational Church. Every pane in the beautiful stained glass windows on the north side was shattered to bits, and the lead work battered beyond hope of repair. It will cost upwards of \$2,000 to restore these windows in the original designing. The front of the Nobes block was a sight. Just one pane of glass was left intact. Most of York's display windows face the east and west, and for this reason only the loss of plate glass was held down comparatively low. But several big plate glass windows were wrecked on the South Side. Russ Williams and Mrs. Chapman suffered considerable loss to goods that were water soaked when display windows were wrecked.

Every electrolier on the north and south streets was wrecked. There was not a single white globe left, and only here and there could one find an incandescent lamp that had escaped. Immediately after the storm the Public Service Co. got busy, and before noon the next day every globe and lamp had been replaced.

The hail was accompanied by a terrific downpour of rain, and this rain covered a vastly greater area than the hail. Thus the storm that worked destruction in one section proved a blessing in others.

The Storm of April 21, 1920

Northwest York County and portions of Polk County were swept by a cyclone Wednesday afternoon, April 21, 1920. The territory covered was not large but the mischief wrought was according to the rule when a storm of that kind is abroad, and had the cloud not lifted as it reached the town of Polk the tale of disaster would certainly have been longer and more terrible. As it is the loss of

property is by no means inconsiderable. The storm was first noticed in the neighborhood southeast of Arborville whence it traveled northwest to the Platte. The testimony of observers is that a funnel shaped cloud which alternately dipped toward the ground and then raised again as it moved swiftly through the air was the visible sign of trouble and that a terrible roaring heralded its approach by the time it reached Arborville. The storm appeared about three o'clock and after it passed wind, rain and some hail followed in its wake. York people did not see the cloud but noted the sudden drop in temperature in the late afternoon.

Miss Cassie Baugh, who is teaching in the Arborville school, tells of the fright which overtook the occupants of the school house as the storm was approaching. The children were in great terror and many of them were weeping as the teachers closed all doors and windows tightly and then led the pupils to the basement of the building where they remained until the storm passed. Luckily the school house was not touched though the town hall was lifted from its foundations and turned half around, the front of a store building blown in and the blacksmith shop and house belonging to Fred Smith badly damaged. Farm buildings in the path of the twisting cloud fared badly, some were torn to pieces, others unroofed or partly demolished. Windmills were blown down, window's broken in dwelling houses and sheds leveled with the ground.

Rev. S. Harvey, pastor of the Congregational Church at Arborville, tells the story of the storm as follows:

"Many and varied are the reports from Wednesday's storm. Perhaps all are true as viewed from different angles. For some time a cloud hung over the southeast part of town. At about three o'clock it dropped to the ground near I. S. Fisher's, doing no damage except turning over a few chicken coops until it struck the Steve Rolls place, demolishing some out buildings. Passing over Clark Stouffer's place it pushed the barn from the foundation and badly twisted the windmill. His son Ralph, who was working in the field north of the house, did not see the storm until it was upon him and too late to escape; he turned the team loose and dropped to the ground, holding to a fence post and escaped without injury. The report that his clothing was torn from him was false. One of the horses supposed to have been injured, died.

"The storm struck the house of Fred Smith, badly damaging it and tearing down his windmill and nearly all outbuildings except the barn. The property of Ray Smith, occupied by Mr. Ball, was completely demolished as well as all the outbuildings. Mrs. Ball and little boy were seriously bruised but not permanently injured. Veering in its course the storm struck the town hall a side swipe, pushing it off the foundation and turning it about half-way round. Passing over the blacksmith shop and store it completely demolished the shop and pushed the stores out of plumb, tearing off shingles and otherwise damaging them.

"The cyclone seemed to gather in force as it moved. It passed over the Kisler farm occupied by Clarence Cockle and the farm of Cal Tewell, occupied by Lewis Goin. The outbuildings were nearly all destroyed and the houses seriously damaged, especially the one where Mr. Goin lives. A calf was killed at Clarence Cockle's and one of Mr. Goin's breed sows had its shoulder broken. Many trees were broken down and some uprooted. On the Abe Wilcox place the Alvin Linquist and Newton farms, much damage was done to outbuildings. The places of Wm. McDaniels and Wurtz were barely touched, some minor damage being done.

Alex Jones' place was a wreck so far as the outbuildings were concerned. The storm passed over Polk high in the air, doing no damage.

"It is reported that Will Kruger's farm was hard hit and that the cyclone finished up at the Platte. The Fred Shockey and Julian Newton places were touched and outbuildings destroyed.

"Many anxious hearts prayed earnestly for the school children and it would be hard to make some mothers believe their prayers were not answered when the storm missed the school house though it seemed directly in the path. It is the consensus of opinion that the storm was serious enough, although it could have been worse. The teacher is to be complimented upon her quick wit in getting the children in the furnace room after one of the pupils notified her of the approaching storm, for if the force of the wind had not been sufficient to destroy the building, much damage would have been done by flying boards and glass, if the storm had struck it."

The most spectacular sight of the storm was probably the one viewed by the people of Polk as they watched the cloud when it struck the farm of Axel Jones one fourth of a mile southwest of town. The big barn on the farm was lifted intact in the air for perhaps fifty feet, and then scattered to the four points of the compass. Most of the buildings on this farm were blown down, but the dwelling house was not molested. Residents of Polk who watched this manifestation of freakish power expected to see their own homes demolished next, but happily the twister passed them by, though a furious storm of wind and rain broke a little later. Mrs. Ed Johnson of York went to Polk to visit on the afternoon of the storm and reached there about six in the evening. Friends took her to the Jones farm to see the wreck left by the wind and she found people from miles around marveling at the work of the storm. Among the stories of the afternoon was one which credited the wind with breaking the glass in one window of a farm house, stripping a quilt from a bed in the room and dropping it uninjured outside the window, while the spread remained on the bed. No other harm was wrought at this farm except to the windmill, where the pump rod was lifted out of its place.

The Polk Progress says of the storm:

"Wednesday afternoon about three o'clock the denizens of this locality were frightened into caves and every other place of refuge by a furious looking cyclone cloud that formed about one and a half miles southeast of Arborville. Our people are rejoicing over the fact that it did not dip down on Polk and render many of us homeless, also causing deaths."

Telephone service with Arborville and the country near by has not yet been restored since the storm. Several miles of wire are down. Connection with that part of York County is made by means of the Polk Exchange and while Polk central responds, the office is unable to give connections desired in the storm stricken region. For this reason the reports have been rather meagre for the condition of the roads has interfered with the usual modes of travel.

Supervisor J. L. Dorsey and members of his family watched the cloud forming before it started on its mission of destruction, though the storm did not come within three miles of the Dorsey farm. Mr. Dorsey has visited part of the stricken district and is of the opinion that the path of the cyclone was not more than twenty or thirty rods wide.

THE GROWTH OF YORK COUNTY

But the main product of York County is the wonderful inhabitants, and before we begin the story of human endeavor, we may well pause and examine the record of growth of the county in population as furnished by the Federal Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, in December, 1920.

YORK COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Minor civil division	1920	1910	1900		
York County	17,146	18,721	18,205		
Arberville township	583	672	818		
Baker township	718	627	655		
Beaver township	658	675	740		
Bradshaw township, including Bradshaw village	923	955	1,043		
Brown township	610	641	773		
Hays township, including part of McCool Junction village.....	489	655	648		
Henderson township, including Hen- derson and Lushton villages.....	1,314	1,224	1,149		
Leroy township	663	719	690		
Lockridge township	493	609	721		
McFadden township, including part of McCool Junction village	673	848	869		
Morton township, including Benedict village	857	889	877		
New York township	621	604	677		
Stewart township, including Gresham village	1,028	1,080	992		
Thayer township, including Thayer village	720	746	757		
Waco township, including Waco vil- lage	830	903	952		
West Blue township	578	639	702		
York city	5,388	6,235	5,132		
Incorporated place	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Benedict village	522	336	292	...	...
Bradshaw village	391	359	365	...	...
Gresham village	492	344	297	...	...
Henderson village	485	391	208	...	...
Lushton village	186	206	...	...	...
McCool Junction village	338	369	276	204	...
Thayer village	168	...	...	...	...
Waco village	297	293	310	278	173
York city	5,388	6,235	5,132	3,405	1,259

York City by Wards 1920

York city	5,388
Ward 1	1,580
Ward 2	1,522
Ward 3	941
Ward 4	1,345

CHAPTER II

EARLY SETTLEMENTS THROUGH THE COUNTY

EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY—ON THE WEST BLUE—THE MYSTERIOUS GUEST (BY ARMINDA GILMORE)—EARLY SETTLERS—A PIONEER HOME—SOCIAL LIFE—ELIAS GILMORE—J. W. GILMORE—JERRY STANTON—ISAAC ONG—S. S. DEFFENBAUGH—H. C. KLEINSCHMIDT—EZEKIEL EVANS—MARY A. GILMORE—J. W. RUSH—HIRAM SCHNEBLEY—W. H. TAYLOR—LEVI DEAN—W. D. PURCELL.

EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS

No settlements were made in York County until the location of the territorial road, in 1861, from Nebraska City to a point on the line of the "Old Government" or "California Trail," forty miles due east of the present city of Kearney, familiarly called the "Old Freight Road," and more definitely known to early freighters and travelers as the Nebraska City Cut-Off.

It followed the natural "divides" of the county, running near enough to the creeks and rivers to obtain water for the ox and mule teams of the freighters.

This historic "trail" entered York in the southeast corner, passing through West Blue, York and Baker precincts on one of the continuous "divides" that cross the county, running in a general course east and west and three miles south of the city of York. Along the line of this trail, at convenient points for obtaining water and fuel, numerous ranches were established. Five of these pioneer hotels were located in York County, the oldest being Porcupine Ranch, situated at Porcupine Bluffs, near the west line of the county. It was inaugurated in the year 1863, by Benjamin F. Lushbaugh, United States Indian agent of the Pawnees, and was conducted by Samuel Kearney. It was also a relay station of the overland stage coach, and twenty-seven miles west of Fouse's Ranch, located at Beaver Crossing in Seward County.

The following year, 1864, Mr. Lushbaugh also established the Jack Smith Ranch, and placed in charge a Mr. Chapin, who kept it for a period of six months, when it passed into the hands of Mr. Smith, who remained proprietor until the freight wagons disappeared, and its mission was ended.

The McDonald Ranch was also established in 1864, and is named in honor of its original proprietor. This ranch was purchased by a Mr. Baker, in the fall of 1865, and operated by him until the close of the freighting business. It was located just east of Porcupine Ranch.

Antelope Ranch was situated only a few miles east of the McDonald Ranch, and was established in the month of November, 1865, by James T. Mathewson.

Next to the Jack Smith Ranch west was the ranch known as Jack Stone's Ranch, established in August, 1865, by George Chapman, but operated by him

for only six months, at which time he transferred it to John McClellan, alias Jack Stone, and maintained by him until the business of freighting was abandoned.

Near the site of Mr. Smith's old ranch, on the bluffs, a few rods south of Beaver Creek, may be seen the grave of the first white man interred in York County. His death was tragic and brought on by his own evil intentions.

The victim was a driver in charge of the overland stage coach, and in passing over the road stopped at Smith's Ranch. He was under the influence of "pioneer whisky," very abusive, and finally declared his intention to shoot Mr. Smith.

With this purpose in view, he went to the stage, secured his revolvers, returned to the ranch and drew a bead on Mr. Smith, just as he was about to enter the ranch.

Mr. Smith shot first, the ball entering the forehead, and producing instant death. This was the first death occurring in the county, and although assuming the form of a tragedy, Mr. Smith was justified in the course he pursued.

IN SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY

The first settlements were made in the valley of the West Blue, in the territory now embraced by West Blue precinct. The early pioneers in this portion of the county are: Nerva Fouse, Elias Gilmore, George Stubblefield, Henry Chatterton, William J. Taylor and David Bussard. In the northwest part J. W. Kingston and Philander Church settled upon the Blue River in 1870, and in the north and northeast, upon Lincoln Creek, David Doan, James H. Stewart, Newton Hyett, and John A. Mercer made settlement in 1868, and C. C. Smith and a Mr. Coon, in 1867.

In the more central part along the valley of Beaver Creek the pioneers are John Kora, Julius Frost, Henry Nichols, William Sweet and Christian Bristol, the date of their settlements being 1870.

A little farther west on the creek David Baker settled in 1869, and the following year Thomas Bassett and Marion Shackelford.

In the south and west parts, Fernando McFadden made settlement in 1866 on the West Blue, and Levi Woodruff in 1868, and also the Hendersons at an early period.

In 1870, during the month of April, the organization of the county took place. The United States census, which was made during this year, disclosed a total population of 640, one half of whom had made settlement in the spring and summer.

There was but one frame house in the entire county, the residence of Uncle Elias Gilmore, situated on the West Blue, and but one schoolhouse, a sod structure, also located upon this stream.

One post-office comprised the entire mail facilities, which was located upon the West Blue on the road between Fairmont and York, at the residence of Fernando McFadden, established in the month of July, 1867. Mr. McFadden has the honor of being the first postmaster appointed in York County, and his euphonious name was also given to the postoffice. At this office they were supposed to have a weekly mail, but high water, a sick horse, or some other incident often delayed it, and not infrequently two weeks passed without any mail coming into York County.

Large numbers of buffalo invaded the county in August, 1868, which was the last appearance of these animals in any considerable numbers. Their advent was a godsend to the almost destitute pioneers, who found themselves in a position to lay in a winter's supply of meat, and it is needless to add they were not backward in taking advantage of their good fortune. During this year (1868) the Pawnees, Otoes, Omahas and Poncas were united in a war against their common enemy, the powerful Sioux, and invaded York County on the warpath. The line of battle was on the south side of the West Blue about eight miles south of the city of York. No white settlers were molested, but the Indians skirmished here and there over the southern part of the county, according to their usual mode of warfare.

In the '70s and '80s there were but two or three houses between the residence of J. W. Kingston and the City of York, and settlements were scattered and many miles apart. Yet those were grand old days, and the first settlers are unanimous in pronouncing them as such. They were obliged to make long journeys for their social amusements, but always enjoyed them. A trip of twenty-five miles for the purpose of visiting a neighbor was no uncommon occurrence, and you may rest assured those visits were always pleasant and agreeable. All were united in one common bond of friendship and hearty good will toward each other. A new settler was hailed with delight, and the neighbors (all were neighbors) would go fifteen or twenty miles to assist him in erecting his sod house, and giving him an honest welcome. The stranger became one of them and without the least formality. Such hearty good will is contagious, and no sooner did the new settler see it manifested than he took the disease, and was as jolly free and friendly as the rest. Long trips across the country were not unfrequent, and little dreaded.

The nearest mill was located at Milford, Seward County, a distance of thirty-five miles from York, and with their little grists they made the journey in three days and often in two. The bulk of the trading was done at Lincoln, except lumber, which was purchased at Plattsmouth or Nebraska City, on the Missouri River. The many trials and hardships of pioneer life, interspersed with the numerous pleasures incident to it, form a volume that can never be fully written.

ON THE WEST BLUE

The following rather personal reminiscences of the early settlers along the West Blue in the late '60s and early '70s, will afford the modern generation the most intimate glimpse into the life of the brave pioneers of York County that can be afforded. To Miss Arminda Gilmore is the present generation most deeply indebted for the preservation of these valuable word pictures of days gone by never to return.

"A Mysterious Guest"

Hospitality was everywhere in evidence in the days of which we write. Doors were never locked; white men and Indians could alike walk in unannounced, the latter oftening frightening women and children very much. In the early '70s a man riding a beautiful thoroughbred horse stopped at Elias Gilmore's and asked for entertainment over night, which was of course granted. He was a well dressed man, keen and alert, differing in many ways from the travelers of that time.

It was noticed that his right hand was usually held under the left side of his coat and though he was a good talker and well informed on current events he was reticent regarding himself.

The sleeping apartment in the house consisted of one large room for the men, containing several beds. The late S. N. Creech and other boarders occupied beds in this room and were startled when the stranger upon retiring unbuckled a belt containing several revolvers, one of which he calmly placed under his pillow and laid the belt on the table near his bed. The unarmed men in the room made no remarks, but passed a sleepless night. The stranger was up early and after paying liberally for his entertainment, rode swiftly away. Mr. Gilmore remarked, "Boys, there's something wrong with that man," a fact which became evident when they learned later that they had entertained the noted Jesse James.

Fish and game were abundant in the early days, many deer being killed during the winter of '66-7 and also during that of '68. After that they became scarcer and only a glimpse of antelope could be seen. Elias Gilmore brought to Nebraska what was perhaps one of the largest breaking plows in the state, being a twenty-six-inch lay. To this plow he drove from four to six yoke of oxen with one or more drivers. Mr. Gilmore broke prairie from near Camden, Neb., west for many miles, for which he got from three to five dollars per acre. The first threshing outfit that came into York County was owned by M. Brown of Middle Creek, Neb. He bought the machine in Nebraska City and threshed along the westward road as far as Hamilton County.

ELIAS GILMORE

Interesting Reminiscences of Time When Redskins Were Many and White Men Few

EARLY SETTLERS

"David Bussard was one of the first county commissioners and A. J. Gilmore was for some years blacksmith for the entire county. November 3, 1866, Elias Gilmore with his family arrived, having brought fourteen head of cattle and six head of horses. Afterwards he bought two small hogs from a ranchman on Salt Creek southeast of the present city of Lincoln. This was the beginning of a stock industry that has yielded an abundant harvest. The winter of '66-7 was a very severe one with an immense fall of snow. Food had to be hauled from Nebraska City. Prairie fires had destroyed the already limited supply of hay. Those who remained on their farms during the winter had a hard time, but crops were exceedingly good the following year, thus giving encouragement to the somewhat discouraged ones."

PIONEER HOME

A description of the dugout in which the Gilmore family lived a few years will not be amiss, as it is only from the pages of history that this kind of a house will be known to this and coming generations. Dug into a sidehill near the river with a front built of logs, the bank growing deeper towards the back until it was about seven feet. Upon this a few more logs were placed.

The floor was made of hewn slabs somewhat smoothed, known as puncheons. The roof was covered with the same over which a few inches of dirt was thrown. A huge fireplace in the end had a chimney built of sod plastered with mud. Rough boards overhead made a low sleeping room for the men. This house was twenty-four by ten feet in size and was indeed a home for many land seekers at that time. The year '69 found many settling along the river and the prairie lands were also being taken. The timber was used for fuel and sometimes corn stalks were utilized for the same purpose. This was a very wet summer and as the dirt roof failed to keep out the rain, a new house became necessary. Mr. Gilmore had raised an abundant crop of both barley and buckwheat. The latter was first taken to the Camden mills, converted into flour, then hauled to Nebraska City and sold for eleven dollars per hundred. The barley also taken to Nebraska City brought one dollar and seventy-five cents per bushel. The wagons were then loaded with lumber for the new house, this being, we think, the first frame house in the county. Native trees taken to Milford and sawed into rough lumber were used for the framework. The price lumber brought in Nebraska City cost there \$90 per thousand feet. The building consisting of an upright part 24 by 14 with a 16 foot ell is yet in fair condition on the farm now owned by Boss Gilmore.

Shingles for the school house in district No. 1, were brought from Nebraska City and the first school opened in April, 1870, with Lizzie Lowery as teacher. This district was in later years annexed to district No. 7 and thus lost its identity to some extent. During the summer of 1868 a post-office was located at McFadden and a year later the Old Blue Valley post-office opened with J. R. Gilmore as postmaster. Mr. Gilmore also ran a general store until 1873, when he sold out to the firm of Creech & Armstrong, who in 1874, built the old storehouse yet standing, having then to haul lumber from Lincoln only.

SOCIAL LIFE

"Social and religious life was not neglected in those days. The young people from the Fouse Ranch to Mr. Waddel's ranch in Hamilton County were well known to each other and frequently met to enjoy a country dance with a zeal unknown today. Perry Caldwell, a United Brethren preacher, living on a homestead in Saline County, rode horseback to his appointments and in 1868 organized a class in the home of David Bussard. This class has had an uninterrupted history and yet meets in Bethel church, which was built in 1870. R. S. Manney, Ezekiel Evans and Elder Kilroe organized the Christian church in a school house until 1883, when the present church house was built."

J. W. Rush, who we think is now the oldest homesteader living in York County, drove through from Illinois in 1872, locating on section 12, range 1. Mr. Rush is a veteran of the Civil war and has lately celebrated his ninetieth birthday (1912).

THE SOD-HOUSE

There is one other thing that the early settler can never forget and that is the sod house. It was a strong factor in helping to settle this country and if it had not been for the sod house it would have been almost impossible for some of the homesteaders to have lived on their land. The settlers along

the streams were anxious to see the prairie settled and when they saw a new black spot on the prairie, they knew there was another homesteader. Yes, the sod house was the dwelling, the barn, the church, the school house and dance hall. I have often thought Nebraska should build a monument in honor of the sod house.

"In 1865 Elias Gilmore, in company with his eldest son, Jacob Rush Gilmore, and Wm. Taylor, left Livingston County, Ill., for Nebraska, traveling overland with team and wagon. They were delayed at Sidney, Iowa, for some weeks while waiting for the ice on the Missouri River to become sufficiently strong to drive over, consequently did not arrive in York County until the latter part of December. Leaving the old freight road at the Fouse Ranch they followed a dim wagon track westward along the Blue, finding John Anderson with his family already located near the eastern line of the county. Coming west they ate Christmas dinner in camp on section 6, range 1, just north of the river from where the K. P. camp is now located. After locating their land they returned to Nebraska City, homesteading the same January 1, 1866, then once again driving across the country to the new homes, began the work of improving them. The nearest post-office was Camden, twenty-five miles away. They spent the winter in a small dugout near the river, surrounded by Indians; Mrs. Taylor remaining there alone at one time while J. R. Gilmore made the trip to Nebraska City from which place Elias Gilmore returned to Illinois. The winter proved to be very fine until about the fourteenth of February, when they were visited by a regular blizzard, the snow completely covering both house and barn. In April, J. R. Gilmore, wife and little daughter, Ella, now Mrs. S. J. Dutton, of Davis Creek California, arrived and to them was born June 3, 1866, their second eldest daughter, Lily M., now Mrs. J. E. Hunt, of Bayard, Nebraska. Elias Gilmore had shipped to Nebraska City meat, flour and such farming implements as were needed in the new country. During the summer of 1866 David Bussard, A. J. Gilmore, Chris Holoch, A. Deens, Fernando McFadden and Jerry Stanton came from Illinois and located along the river, Jerry Stanton having homesteaded the land upon which McCool is now located.

"GLIMPSES OF OTHER DAYS" *By J. W. Gilmore*

"The people who came to Nebraska in the years '65 and '66 and later can look back and see that since that time the hand of evolution has been busy changing the vast prairies that were at one time considered part of the Great American Desert to a fertile farming country and homes for thousands. The prairies in those days had a different appearance and one looking over them could see as far as the vision of the eye could reach. The monotony was only broken sometimes by a herd of deer or antelope or elk and sometimes buffalo. The grass on the prairie at that time was short and in bunches and where now plenty of hay can be made, then it took a hundred acres to make a ton. The streams were visited by friendly bands of Indians trapping the beaver and other game which was to be found in abundance. The first Indians the writer ever saw were camped in a grove where now the K. P. park is located and there were about one hundred in the band. An Indian squaw came to our home; she could talk English very plainly and told us where they camped farther up the river. The band had lost a child which was never found. They thought it had fallen in the river and gotten under the ice.

"The Pawnees and Omaha Indians always had their annual buffalo hunt in the

latter part of the summer. They formed an alliance and hunted together so they would be strong enough to fix the Sioux. Their custom was to go west and get around the buffalo and draw them east from the Sioux. This would cause trouble and sometimes there would be fighting. Sometimes the buffalo would be driven as far east as York County and that is the reason some of the first settlers here saw the Indians hunting buffalo on these prairies.

"The first buffalo I ever saw was in 1868 when I was but a boy, I got on my pony to visit friends near where the Fillmore mill now stands; and when I had gone as far west as the present location of the town of McCool, I saw on the opposite side of the river what I thought to be black cattle, but later learned were buffalo. There were thousands of them and as they ran the vibrations of their hoofs sounded like distant thunder."

"JERRY STANTON" *By Armina Gilmore*

The long cold winter of 1866-7 with the deep snow, leveling the entire country into a white, unbroken plain, was a lonely one to the two homesteaders in what is now McFadden Township. Jerry Stanton and his son-in-law, Fernando McFadden, had located near the present location of McCool during the preceding summer.

Mr. Stanton was so commonly called "Uncle Jerry" that we can hardly recognize him by any other name. His dugout (house and stable) were dug into the bank just north of the road that now comes into McCool from the east, probably near where Mr. Wright's poultry yards are located. Mr. W. H. Taylor was visiting Uncle Jerry when the snow began to melt. One night they were awakened by the sound of rushing water, and soon discovered that the river had risen to such a height as to make it impossible to remain in the dugout. Uncle Jerry's furniture was not of the kind that would be greatly injured by the flood. His bedding and provisions could easily be carried on to a higher plain, but he had something more valuable than furniture stacked in the corner of his home, and that was several bushels of red wheat, which he had recently purchased at the Mills Ranch near the present town of Row, Neb., paying two dollars per bushel for it and hauling it about sixty miles. That wheat must be saved, it represented money and labor and spoke prophetically of coming wealth. The river ran rapidly but the men worked heroically. The wheat was loaded into the wagon, provisions and bedding were piled on top. Daylight did not reveal a promising landscape. Every creek and ravine had become a rushing torrent—to cross the river to McFadden's was impossible, and to go east to Gilmore's was dangerous, as the swollen creek could not be crossed with a wagon.

They started north after reaching the divide. Mr. Taylor went east, reaching Gilmore's in safety, while Uncle Jerry with the precious burden landed at the old Millspaugh Ranch, near sundown, where Mr. John Harris was at that time living alone, selling a few supplies to the travelers along the old road.

A bountiful yield of wheat richly repaid Uncle Jerry for his trouble, but the old dugout was so nearly destroyed that he soon built a nice little log house. Uncle Jerry was a true nobleman; he loved company, and his mind was a storehouse from which he could draw many an interesting tale of his trip across the plains to California in the '50s, and the days when he was a "wagoneer on the Old Pike" in Pennsylvania. Truly a country should become great whose pioneer age

was developed by characters like this, and the best monument the present York County could erect in honor of the past deeds worthy of the memory of such men as Uncle Jerry Stanton and his companions would only be a fitting tribute to them.

Death came even in the pioneer age and we think that perhaps the first white woman buried in York County was Mrs. Eliza McFadden, youngest daughter of Uncle Jerry Stanton, and sister of Mrs. Kate Stark, who now resides in McCool, (1912) a sweet, delicate young woman who was beloved by many. Her death occurred in November, 1868, having been sick many months with tuberculosis of the lungs.

The kindly interest of the early settlers in each other was evident from the fact that often during her long illness many went from Beaver Crossing to Mrs. McFadden's home to help care for her. Neighbors were few, doctors and nurses far away but those kind-hearted pioneers were so incessant in their care that the sick one wanted for nothing. On a bright November afternoon the funeral services were held. The pine casket had been made lovely by sympathetic hands, and as the November sun was sinking in the west, friends carried her tenderly from the home she had helped to rear and laid her to rest. The old house has long since become a thing of the past, but the traveler who crosses the river on the old McFadden bridge can see a little grave on Mr. Kuntz's farm, just south of the river. This marks the resting place of Mrs. Eliza Stanton McFadden, the first among a great number to pass away—women, of whom we think with a becoming reverence, for their sacrifice and toil have given to us the beautiful country of which we are so proud.

Sometimes in thought we erect a granite monument on which in letters of gold we can behold the names of the women of that age. The Mesdames Henderson, George, Dixon, McFadden, Bussard, Hollock, Deems, Gilmore and Anderson; but the monument is not needed, their names cannot be forgotten, for they did their part so well that their lives are inseparably woven into the history and character of York County.

ISAAC ONG

(Along the Blue in 1866-7)—By Armina Gilmore

Isaac Ong with his family came from Illinois in the fall of '68. He also homesteaded on section 18, near McCool. Mr. Ong proceeded to dig his house into a bank, as was the custom. The summer of '69 was a season of much rain, great heavy rain storms that brought floods of water down the ravines, and also demonstrated the fact that the Nebraska farmer must provide a better roof for his house than a few slabs covered with dirt if he would keep things in the dry.

Mr. and Mrs. Ong were awakened one night by a rushing of water at the door. Soon the house was covered with two feet of water. They sat on the beds watching for coming events. Mr. Ong had brought with him from Illinois a decoy duck, and as it was the custom to stow many things not in use under the bed, that decoy duck was placed there. The water ran high, when out from under the bed the duck came swimming serenely around, apparently perfectly at home. This time the water having come from a rain storm quickly subsided, leaving only a very muddy floor which, being of mother earth, was some time drying.

Mr. William Ong, quite an aged man, had also come west with his son. He was the first Squire in York County and did quite a business in the matrimonial line;

in fact, with Judge Moore to issue the license and Squire Ong to perform the ceremony, south York County people began to think this was the most opportune time for beginning the new home life.

Dentists and doctors were absent for some years, but people did have the ague and toothache, the first must be cured by patent medicine or endured for long weeks, and it was usually endured. Of course people couldn't always go to Milford, where lived a doctor, to have a tooth extracted, and so the toothache was also oftentimes endured.

Mr. Levi Dean had a very painful tooth, one of the kind that keeps jumping, for days, and for weeks he had no rest. A big Swede by the name of Peter Johnson was living with Mr. Dean. He was a jolly fellow, full of jokes, and persuaded Mr. Dean to allow him to pull the tooth with a pair of bullet molds. Of course, a local anesthetic was at that time an unheard of thing, even by professional "tooth-pullers," and Johnson had but one idea, and that was to get the tooth out. He was much stronger than Mr. Dean, and he knew he could hold him and extract the tooth at the same time. He put that bullet mold into the tooth with a grip firm as steel. Mr. Dean tried to scream. He kicked and rolled onto the floor, but that Swede was bound to conquer, the tooth came at last, but Mr. Dean always thought that the cure was worse than the disease.

During the summer of '69 Dr. Deweese located on a homestead near Mr. McFadden's and was for many years the family physician for the people. During the fall and winter of '70-71 the typhoid fever became prevalent, several deaths occurred, and many families were afflicted. Everyone was glad to have in the community a doctor so competent as was this kind, unassuming Dr. Deweese, who made long trips over the prairies regardless of the storms, and very often with no prospects of any fee. He was truly a doctor of the people and for the people, in full sympathy with their sufferings and privations.

S. S. DEFFENBAUGH—*By Arminda Gilmore*

S. S. Deffenbaugh with his wife and two children came from Wyoming, Ill., in 1874, arriving just a few weeks before the grasshoppers made their first destructive visit to the homesteaders. This little army, no doubt, had often rested on the plains of York County, when their sustenance was only greens and the bark and leaves of the few trees that grew only along the rivers; but now conditions were changed, delicious corn and vegetables were awaiting them, and it took only a few hours for the devastating army to destroy all that the hopeful farmers had in store for the coming year.

That was one of the dark pictures of homestead life. It meant suffering for many fathers and mothers who had sacrificed much for their children, and now perhaps they must hear them cry for food. And here allow me to say that such would have been the case more frequently if it had not been for the relief sent from the east; but even this visit from a destructive enemy did not discourage Mr. Deffenbaugh and his worthy companion. They had come west to get a home; the spirit of progress and enterprise was a rich heritage to them. The beautiful home in which they now live (1913) tells its own story, and speaks in stronger language than can the pen of the writer of the valiant industry of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Deffenbaugh.

Among those who settled along the Blue during the summer of 1866 was Nicholas Nye, an eccentric man who delighted in being called "Old Nick." Going one day into the home of Mr. Ong, he found no one home but Grandma Ong, quite an aged lady. "Madam," he said, "did you ever hear of the Old Nick?" "I certainly have," she replied. "Vell, den, here you see him," he said, in his quaint Pennsylvania Dutch accent.

Mr. Nye came from Philadelphia with the Fouses and homesteaded on section 10, range 3, W., the farm now owned by Mr. Hagerman.

Mr. Nye always claimed that cooking food was an unnecessary trouble, and therefore ate his vegetables raw, with meat and fish as a dessert, in the same condition.

H. C. KLEINSCHMIDT

Mr. Kleinschmidt has a good memory for things which happened many years ago. He recalls vividly the experiences of his childhood when his father, a minister in the German Methodist Church, was obliged to travel a four weeks' circuit, leaving his wife and children alone in a little home on the banks of the Missouri River in Missouri. He remembers how beautiful the woods were and how full of game, and the deer that used to come to the house at night and gaze in at the candles standing lighted by the windows. He remembers how when five years old he, with his brother, was lost for two days and two nights in the forests near the great river and wandered cold and hungry until found by their distracted parents. With such a pioneer bringing up it is no wonder that as a young man Mr. Kleinschmidt sought a home on Nebraska prairies. In the fall of 1871 he and his partner, Mr. Bramstedt, paid twenty-five dollars to the South Platte Land Company for a lot on what is now the west side of the square. There the young men erected a two-story frame store building. This stood about midway in the block. The lumber was hauled from Lincoln. It cost \$60 a thousand and the cost of hauling it to York was \$12 per thousand more. Later the same material could have been purchased for \$25 per thousand on the ground, but Mr. Kleinschmidt found that settlers were regarded as an easy mark by dealers at the sources of supply in those days. The land office and Mrs. Wilson's millinery store were other buildings on the street with the new general store, and the county court house was a sod building located west of where the First National Bank now stands. J. H. and F. O. Bell kept a store on the Hannis corner, too.

There proved to be more trade than money in the new country. People were obliged to eat and be clothed whether they had the wherewithal or not. The new firm had the goods and let them go to supply need, taking in return what they could get. When Mr. Kleinschmidt wants to indulge in day dreams he speculates as to what he would do if he had the \$17,000 which he estimates he donated towards the support of the first settlers of York County.

"I loaned one man the money to square up with Uncle Sam for his claim," he said. "Now he owns five quarters of York County land and I am still selling prunes."

But Mr. Kleinschmidt does not seem to regret the money or the help he gave in those days. The people were grateful and the spirit of helpfulness and brotherly kindness was alive. The neighbors knew each other's joys and sorrows in a much greater degree than is possible now and everybody was sociable and friendly. On

the arrival of a stranger from that indefinite place known as "the East" the business men and residents in the little town were wont to gather about the new-comer and give him a hearty welcome without questioning too closely into his past. When trouble came everybody joined hands and kind hearts found ways of showing sympathy.

The people did not have money to spend for luxuries then. Mr. Kleinschmidt bought a box of oranges in the early summer of 1872, thinking that the settlers would enjoy them as a "treat" for the Fourth of July. But half that box of oranges spoiled because the demand was so light. One kind of fruit never failed to sell. Dried currants were a staple. The grocer bought them by the barrel. The homesteader took them out by the dollar's worth. Currant pie and currant sauce appeared on the tables of all men from the northern to the southern limits of the county and everybody liked currants.

In 1877 Mr. Kleinschmidt built the cottage on North Lincoln Avenue where he now lives. When he bought the land on which his home was placed he paid at the rate of five dollars a lot. He does not want to sell his home, but if he did, the price would be a trifle higher. During his forty-one years in York, Mr. Kleinschmidt has had experience in the merchandise business, in banking and as deputy county clerk. He has had a hand in the making of the community and whether he ever gets all the credit belonging to him for his share in the good work or not, he is satisfied with the results. When he goes away from York for a visit, declares he is always glad to get back.

EZEKIEL EVANS

Ezekiel Evans, the son of Ezekiel and Mary Jermain Evans, was born in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, February 28, 1829. He lived in the first tier of houses near the Atlantic Ocean for a number of years. He "followed the sea," but desiring to improve conditions, he left for the West at twenty-six years of age and settled in Illinois.

He was married to Miss Martha Jane Williams September 29, 1857, and lived near Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois, until again the western fever took possession of him and he with his wife and family, now consisting of six sons, departed for the West and located in York County.

When he came to the county to homestead he came on the train as far as Lincoln, then by stage as far as Seward, when it was necessary to come the rest of the distance on foot. He homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 18, township 11, range 1 west, in April, 1872, and brought his family in the fall of the same year, coming overland in a "prairie schooner." As he was a minister of the gospel as well as a farmer, he preached from house to "soddy" and dugout; swam streams and slept on the broad prairies, while his colts ate the grass growing so plentifully. As the settlers at that time seemed so poor, and he so "rich in the faith that God would care for him," could not ask for the "needful" but obeyed his God with trusting faith. With his trusty fowling piece he killed the meat for his family, increased to ten by the addition of four daughters in Nebraska. Geese, duck, quail, rabbit, and chickens were plentiful, and they who cared to hunt could have them for the killing of them.

He was school director in his frontier days in Illinois, and was also now school

director in his new home, and built the first schoolhouse in his district, Waco Township.

With the help of his sons he farmed four hundred acres of land in addition to preaching the gospel. They said it did not rain in Nebraska, but that first Lord's day, after he preached the first gospel sermon in York, it did rain until the water was several inches deep over the ground where our court house now stands. The Lord helped him to build up six Churches of Christ in York County.

When on his first trip to see the country, he picked up an Indian arrow head, near where the court house now stands. He thought "if the Indians can live here, the white man can." This thought has proven to be true, as present prosperity shows.

When he looks back to the Anderson-Ford wedding he thinks the roast turkey tasted as good in that nice dugout as now in the most modern dwelling. At that time when hungry it was easy to get together a few dry sticks, toast a quail, some corn or some rye bread. Then after he had a nap the black horse Jim would neigh and be ready to take his master on to the next appointment.

He later moved to Waco, then in 1901 went back to his childhood home with his wife, leaving the children scattered over the West. After six years Nebraska appealed to him as of old and at the earnest wish of his friends and loved ones he returned to York in 1907, and there is settled in his own home. He has found that York County is the garden spot of God's creation, and that deep and abundant faith in his Heavenly Father has increased till it is his greatest comfort in his later days, and he hopes to meet his friends where partings are no more (1913).

MARY A. GILMORE

Word was received in York late in 1920 of the death of Mrs. Mary Gilmore, mother of Mrs. W. W. McCoy of this city. Mrs. Gilmore, who was seventy-seven years of age, died at the Soldiers' Home at Milford and had been in failing health for several years. Mrs. Gilmore was one of the early settlers of this part of Nebraska, coming with her husband from Illinois in 1866, and taking a homestead near McCool. Mr. Gilmore died more than thirty years ago. Mrs. Gilmore has resided at the Home at Milford for the past two years. Burial was made in the Bethel Cemetery at McCool on Tuesday afternoon, where the funeral services were conducted by her former pastor, Reverend Brink.

REMINISCENCES OF MARY GILMORE —By *Armina Gilmore*

In the spring of 1866, A. J. Gilmore, David Bussard, William Whitaker and William O. Bussard, came to Nebraska in search of land; they came in covered wagons. After hunting and finding land that suited them they had to return to Nebraska City to homestead said land; then the fall following Wm. O. Bussard and William Whitaker returned east for their families, traveling in the same covered wagons. David Bussard remained on his homestead, but in the meantime he had purchased a very good chance of one Mr. Hall, which consisted of a very good two-room log house, a lot of potatoes and a large sorghum patch, which sorghum was later made into molasses, furnishing sweetening for all purposes. With

buffalo, elk, venison, antelope and prairie chickens without number, sorghum cake made a very good dessert.

David Bussard and A. J. Gilmore located along the Blue River in York County, Whitaker and Wm. O. Bussard going to Fillmore. For a short time after settling, A. J. Gilmore had his blacksmith shop on the old freight road near Fouse's ranch and the next spring took his wife and little daughter, now Mrs. W. T. Decious of York, and lived in a covered wagon on his claim until he broke prairie and planted sod corn, after which he built his house, which was a story and a half high, dug in the bank on three sides, built up in front of nicely hewed logs 16x18, with dirt floor and roof, but later on there came a portable sawmill near, and he had native lumber sawed for upper and lower floors, after which the house was known as the "Astor" house on account of its palatial appearance. It was also the stopping place of land seekers and people coming from a great distance to get their smith-work done.

Indians were very numerous. I remember on one occasion Mr. Gilmore having gone to mill at Milford, which trip required three days, his wife and baby being alone there. During his absence there came to the house an uncommonly large and ugly Indian, demanding something to eat, saying, "You no give me eat, me shoot," taking his gun in his hands and looking very savage. Trembling in every limb, I quickly filled a plate with eatables, handing it to him. After eating, he left, saying, "You heap good squaw, good-bye."

Now I will tell you about religious matters. We were without religious meetings until two horsemen rode up to David Bussard's door, who proved to be two preachers, W. T. Caldwell and E. J. Lamb of the United Brethren Church. That evening Lamb preached in Bussard's house and the next night Caldwell preached in A. J. Gilmore's house, after which we had preaching every four weeks. The first class was organized in David Bussard's house by Caldwell. To show you how the people enjoyed meeting I will relate a little incident which is as follows: Caldwell had left an appointment for preaching at Elias Gilmore's. When the Sunday came the Blue River was overflowing its banks, but A. J. Gilmore and family wanted to go to church, so he tied the wagon bed on, put the spring seat on helped his wife up, gave the little girl to her mother and hitched the oxen to the wagon, drove to the river and plunged in, the oxen swimming upstream. The entire congregation came to the river to see them come over and did the same when they returned home.

J. W. RUSH—*By Arminda Gilmore*

J. W. Rush was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1822, coming to Illinois in 1854, when that state was thought of as "away out west." In 1862, at the age of forty, he enlisted in the 129th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, going with Sherman in his famous "march to the sea," and engaging in active service in the last battle of the Civil war. In 1872 he again determined to try his fortune in a new state, consequently landed in York County in June of that year, under the law lately coming into effect giving the soldier 160 acres of land. He homesteaded that amount on section 18, township 9, range 1 west, when he and his wife and children proceeded to make a home in the best sense of the word. Mr. Rush had brought with him from Pennsylvania a love for the fruit tree, and his was one

of the first orchards in the county. Several years ago he moved to McCool and now lives at Blue Vale with his daughter, Mrs. S. S. Deffenbaugh, his wife having died some years ago.

Mr. Rush celebrated his 90th birthday recently, and is, we think, the oldest homesteader living in the county at this time (1913).

HIRAM SCHNEBLEY—*By Arminda Gilmore*

Hiram Schnebley arrived in West Blue in 1873, and located on the same section with Mr. Rush. Mr. Schnebley's coming to Nebraska was purely accidental. When a young man living near New Salem, Ohio, he caught the western fever everywhere prevalent at that time and joined the tide of emigrants pouring into Nebraska and Kansas. Coming to Lincoln, then nothing but a village with a future, he found his money gone and proceeded to walk westward. Arriving at E. Gilmore's, he learned of the one homestead still vacant, which, because it was a rough 80, no one had taken it. Immediately returning to Lincoln, he filed on the land, thus gaining time in which to earn the money necessary to homesteading, by working during the summer months and teaching school in the winters. He improved his land, upon which he next lived.

Mr. Schnebley is known throughout south York County by the name of "the Berryman," he having what was probably the largest small fruit farm in the county, which he values at about ten thousand dollars.

W. H. TAYLOR—*From Old Settlers History*

W. H. Taylor, who had raised a small crop of oats during the summer of 1867, found the same unthreshed in the spring of '68. Clearing off a small spot of ground, he called his neighbors in and proceeded to thresh in a primitive way, that is, by putting the oats on the ground and driving the horses over it—not much like the steam threshers of today. Towards evening two men rode up and informed them that they had followed a band of Indians, who had stolen their horses, from Kansas, and that the Indians were in camp about one mile east. The men had run their horses, and now they wanted Mr. Taylor and his threshing outfit to help get their property.

Knowing it was best for settlers to keep on good terms with the Indians, the men hesitated to go, but after several more men had joined the band they proceeded to the Indian camp. The men from Kansas were evidently used to dealing with the Indians. The leader left all the men but the one who had come with him hid in the bushes, with orders to remain quiet unless they should hear shooting, then to be ready for action. The other man was placed with a gun behind a tree and the leader advanced unarmed to the camp. Calling the chief aside, he explained his mission and demanded his horses. The chief turned and spoke to his tribe. Instantly four warriors came out with bow in one hand and an arrow held between each finger of the other. This meant fight. The man behind the tree stepped out with his gun aimed. This was enough for the chief, it frightened him into submission, he ordered his braves back and told the men to get their horses. The men in ambush were told to watch lest the Indians follow, but no attempt was made to do so.

The Indians who came through the country at this time had no desire to have trouble with the homesteaders. They frequently passed with horses which they claimed to have stolen from the Sioux, and it is supposed that they sometimes captured some from the whites. If so, perhaps they were only doing what the white men sometimes did with them, only repeating a lesson too well learned from their dealings with the "pale face."

In the main, the Indian tribes who frequented this section of the country were honest and treated the homesteaders fairly.

Upon Mr. Taylor's death the following memorial appeared in the York New Teller:

"W. H. Taylor passed away at his home in McCool in 1913. Although in poor health for some months Mr. Taylor was able to move from his farm in Blue Vale to their home in McCool, Saturday, March 22, and did not become seriously ill until Wednesday. Will Taylor was one of the first settlers in York County, having come to Nebraska in company with J. R. and Elias Gilmore in December of 1865. He was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, but came to Illinois in 1859. He enlisted in the 20th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, at the beginning of the war, but on account of poor health did not serve many years. Since the war he has never been strong. He leaves a wife and one son and a host of friends who will miss him. Thus one by one the ranks are being broken, and soon of the brave men who volunteered for service at the time of our country's greatest need there will be left only a memory. It took courage to march forth in defense of the country, and it was this same courage that was again demonstrated when the men and their little families located on their homesteads in a wilderness of boundless prairie, surrounded by Indians."

LEVI DEAN—*From Old Settlers History*

Christmas, 1866, was a great event in the pioneer home. No doubt memories of bygone days with far-away friends made the people lonely and somewhat homesick. But the children must have their pleasures, and the Christmas dinner must be prepared. A fowl for the festive occasion seemed an absolute necessity, but the chickens which had made the journey from Illinois in coops fastened on the hind part of the wagon must not be sacrificed, so they were dependent on the wild turkey for the Christmas dinner.

Levi Dean (father of Mr. N. A. Dean of York) had come west during the summer and was making his home with Elias Gilmore. He was an expert marksman, having learned to shoot game among the hills of old Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and to him the family looked for the Christmas turkey. Early on the morning of December 24 he took his gun, an old-fashioned rifle, and started in pursuit of his game. Soon finding a large flock of turkeys, he shot and killed two birds with one bullet. (We mention this fact because we think it has never been excelled, and rarely equaled in the county, even by the modern sportsmen with their improved guns.) Thus the Christmas was a success. Other delicacies may have been absent, but the turkeys were the one important factor. The old dugout, decorated with wild berries gathered from the timber, with the bright fire in the huge fireplace, took on quite a festive air. The candy brought from Nebraska City for the children, supplemented by taffy made from the sorghum that had been

brought from Illinois, made the children happy, and the families of J. R. and Elias Gilmore remember this first Christmas in Nebraska as a happy one.

Mr. Dean did not lose his reputation as a hunter after that Christmas feat was accomplished, and shortly afterwards he killed a wild cat, the only one the writer ever saw, and perhaps the only one ever killed in York County. It was a magnificent animal, symmetrical in form, and beautiful in coloring. Christmas-time also brings to us a memory of the first Indians we ever saw. Soon after the holidays a band of Indians camped west of the house; the coming of the red men had been the event most dreaded by the children. We had heard Indian stories, gazed on Indian pictures until even our dreams were colored by visits from them. Father had gone to Nebraska City for supplies, thus adding new terror to the situation. "There comes an Indian, crossing the river on the ice," someone said. Mother with a pale, serious face went to the door, determined to show hospitality even to an Indian. Even now, in thought, we can see our youngest brother, W. C. Gilmore, as his chubby form disappeared under the bed while we were trying to decide if it would be better or more safe to hold on to our mother's dress skirt or follow our brother, but finally decided that the dress skirt or mother's presence offered the most protection. The Indian proved to be an intelligent squaw, who could talk English fairly well, and our fear of the red men was overcome to such an extent that we enjoyed their frequent visits thereafter, although their custom of entering the house unannounced often frightened the women folks. In the absence of J. R. Gilmore at one time during that winter, his wife and two small children and Mary Gilmore, now Mrs. A. G. Corey of Fairfield, Neb., were alone. Suddenly the window was darkened, and a big warrior chief was calmly looking into the room. Seeing that he was observed he opened the door, walked in and sat down by the fire. Noticing a butcher knife on the table, he asked for it—of course his request was granted. Then he took out a whetstone and began carefully to sharpen the knife. The women were badly frightened, but knew it was best to remain in the house. After getting the knife in a satisfactory condition, he went to the mirror and proceeded to cut the whiskers from his face. This was his way of shaving.

WILLIAM D. PURCELL *From Old Settlers History*

William D. Purcell came to York County September, 1870. There was only one frame store, 10x12 feet, here then. He went back to Lincoln to work, not being able to find any land then to homestead. He had two friends who had homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 24, township 11, range 2 west. They relinquished their right in his favor, and he homesteaded it in the spring of '71. Moved out in September into a sod house 10x12. In December, with a foot of ice on the floor, they put down straw with carpet over it and lived very comfortably, keeping one boarder.

The next spring he built a sod house on his homestead which was 12x24, and lived there through the grasshopper raid and big April blizzard, had a nice field of corn shooting for ears when the grasshoppers came like a great black cloud by night and left it not a foot high. They took everything but sweet potatoes and rutabagas and potatoes. He had to drive to Lincoln for everything to live on. In the April storm he had to take the cow, chickens and turkeys into the house. However, we were a happy family, one baby was born November 11, 1871.

CHAPTER III

REMINISCENCES OF PIONEERS

COST OF PIONEERING (MRS. JENNIE STEPHENS)—REMINISCENCES BY W. E. DAYTON—RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER PASTOR'S WIFE (MRS. W. E. MORGAN)—SPEECH AT OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC BY MRS. GEORGE BOWERS—MRS. CAP. J. B. READ—CHRISTIAN HOLOCH—MONTRAVILLE ROBBINS—REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER DAYS—L. D. STILSON—A. W. WIRT—FACTS FIFTY YEARS AGO—L. J. GANDY—ROSA C. MC LELLAN—STORY OF A YORK COUNTY PIONEER—THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS IN YORK, BY NUMEROUS CITIZENS.

COST OF PIONEERING

That the early settlers of York County were never molested by the Indian is generally believed. The fear and apprehension which was constantly in the minds of these pioneers added to the loneliness and privation which truly called for brave hearts and strong courage, may not be so well understood.

The following experience may serve to show the cost of pioneer courage as found in one noble woman and is written as a loving tribute to one of the best of mothers.

In January, 1867, James Waddel leased what is known as the Jack Stone Ranch, one of the landmarks of York County's early history. He left a man on the ranch to put in a crop and returned to Wisconsin for his family, wife and seven children. In June of the same year the family came to this temporary home. The husband and part of the family spent the time establishing the permanent home on the Blue River in Hamilton County. It was when the family was thus separated that the following incident occurred.

One July morning the mother and her little group were aroused by two horsemen who sought from her food and rest and brought to her tidings that on the previous day the Sioux Indians had raided the first settlement of the west. Had taken the stock from farmers, killed two boys and carried two young women into captivity.

The men hastened on to carry the news to the capital at Lincoln.

The mother faced this problem. If the Indians followed the trail or freight road she, with her children, was in their path. If instead they followed the stream or West Blue the other members of her family were in danger.

The horsemen advised her to start at once for civilization, because they thought the Sioux would spare no one in this region. She had a team of horses and a pony.

Could she leave without knowing the fate of her loved ones? What she decided after an hour of careful thought, at 11 o'clock, was to place her oldest son, a lad of fifteen years, on the pony with the charge that he should go to the father. The

had had been sent by the Indians, we were to follow, nothing but the hot July sun to guide his path. I was without the benefit of prompting of great danger that ensued. With an overwhelming desire to do well his part, he passed over the wide stretch of prairie.

The agreement was that he should ride to the family home and return by noon the following day. If he did not return, the mother with the remnant of her flock would start toward the eastward to seek a spot where people "could live."

The scene vivid of that night is the closest of this tale. It is better imagined than described. With the team of horses and wagon drawn close to the window and the faithful watch dog, brought from the Wisconsin home, her only protector, crouched under the window, she sat by the bedside of her children, in her hand the letter of Miss Deane, a name of great note.

The last hour of darkness brought a fierce eastern storm. I have heard my mother say "that nature expressed and calmed the anguish of her heart as she looked into the face of her husband, a girl just reaching into womanhood, and thought could she see her carried away by a band of Indians or rather could she see her life given to dangerous and poverty."

As the storm passed the little group was aroused by a sound of alarm which frightened the horses. The watch dog barked and growled. One of the children exclaimed, "Oh, there are Bob and father." In the sweet Scotch accent always noticed in time of great earnestness, the mother answered, "No, children, that's not Bob, neither is it your father."

The storm increased when, with one great sound, the watch dog leaped through the screened window into the midst of the waiting group crouched at my mother's feet. The sound without was the mingling of a growl and a sharp, shrill whistle. It became fainter and at last died away, the little group thinking kind providence had caused the red man to pass them by.

The cause of this alarm was not, however, the fierce red skin, but proved to be a wandering wild animal of the mountain lion family and, so far as we know, the only one of its kind that has ever been seen in this country. It killed stock in the settlement and was shot beyond Beaver Crossing the following day. The night watch wore away and with the new day came fresh courage to face life's duties. The midday sun brought the boy on the pony, the father and the absent members of the family, for the Indian raiders had followed the stream farther to the south.

In the passing years this experience has been rehearsed with many a laugh and joke as to how we met the Indian raids. Yet this experience with its happy ending bears evidence of something of the cost of making this "Our Fair Nebraska."—Miss Abigail W. Stratton, York, Neb.

REMEMBRANCE

By W. E. Dutton, Dumas. (Written for the Old Settlers' Reunion.)

I came to York County in the spring of 1884, and as my parents loved me very much, I was a pal on their water. "Granny Bate" came to her senses, and just with the exception of Dick Martin I was the meanest boy on the Blue River. Granny only said this, however, when she didn't want me to "cut her a stick of wood." At such times it was "Elmer, honey, won't you please cut old Granny a

stick or two of wood?" And the wood was always forthcoming, and Granny was always liberal in payment for the same. That in which she paid would not pass with everybody as coin of the realm, but it would with a good many people, and it always did with me. It consisted of liberal twists of "long green terbacker," with an occasional "boughten" piece thrown in.

The lumber with which my father built his little house on the homestead was hauled from Lincoln. I remember that the neighbors who lived in soddies and dugouts thought Dayton was putting on too much style with his new frame house. It was a poor affair, compared with the house there now, and with the other houses in York County that have sprung up out of the prairies, but it was home. And that word "home" in the early days meant all the world to hundreds and thousands of hard-working, brave men and women who sat down for the first meal under their own sod and willow brush, and they said the word and it had its full meaning. There was no landlord to divide the profits. The roof was their own. And though it was not a very good one, and leaked somewhat, yet it was not long before they made a better one to replace it. No matter how fine the houses may be now, we must always remember the cosy old soddies and dugouts that cradled Nebraska's greatness as a farming and commercial state.

We will always remember the free, cordial life of those days, gone now for an easier, if not a better. Every man's house was his neighbor's. What one lacked was easily and freely made up by another, and the bonds of universal brotherhood were never stronger any place on God's green earth than they were in York County in the good old homesteading days.

A miracle was accomplished when these broad prairies were peopled. The buffalo had hardly disappeared from sight, frightened at the white spread of the prairie schooner's sails, till this trail was turned under by the breaking plow of advancing civilization. Unbroken solitude here today. Tomorrow you passed the same spot and a habitable home was nearly ready for its occupants. Almost before the claim was staked the school district was organized and the teacher employed, justices and peace officers were elected, and the civil law that governed it in the old homes in the East had scarcely time to draw a full breath until it was in perfect operation in the new home. The church and the Sunday school came in with the movers' wagons in a little box under the feed box at the rear end, and it was taken out and set up before camp was pitched. With such men and women composing the nucleus around which was built the population of Nebraska she could not have been other than the great state she is. Her good name and her peaceful character will stand monuments to their enterprise and integrity until men shall move no more.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER PASTOR'S WIFE

By Mrs. W. E. Morgan

Shall I ever forget my first sight of Nebraska, and my first sniff of Nebraska air? We had ridden all day and all night in the close, stuffy sleeper, and about sunrise we arrived at Plattsmouth. Here, as was the custom in those days, the cars were put on the ferry boat, "Vice President," and ferried over the river. We stepped out onto the platform and drew in breath after breath of the glorious, invigorating air, fresh and sweet as if from the plains of Paradise, life-giving as

the elixir of youth. "Glorious!" I exclaimed. It seemed to me that with every breath I inhaled hope and courage.

All the morning we steamed along the long rolling prairies, and about noon we arrived at the village of Lincoln, then a place of "magnificent distance" and few inhabitants, giving no indication of the busy streets, tall-spired churches, magnificent schools and universities, and flourishing business houses that now fill our capital city.

My brother awaited us with his double-seated "Nebraska surrey," not quite as stylish as the surreys of the present day, but more commodious and useful. Myself and two babies dined at the restaurant around the corner, while my brother and the reverend munched crackers and cheese on a doorstep nearby. (This I learned afterward. I supposed at the time that they were dining at some luxurious hotel.) After refreshing the inner man, we mounted into the Nebraska surrey and started on our journey towards our "home." I don't know what were the sensations of the parson, but I felt like Abraham when he started out to find his Canaan, "Not knowing whither he went." It was a glorious October morning. All over everything lay the palpitating mist of the Indian summer, golden in the sunshine. Over our heads beamed the bluest of skies, while around us everywhere stretched the boundless prairie. We seemed to expand and grow tall as we looked out upon the sea of land rising and falling in undulating billows, like the waves of the ocean, while around and above us was the exhilarating air.

Here and there appeared little black mounds, which my brother informed us were sod houses, and now and then a group of dark, flitting figures, which they said were antelope. Aside from these, no signs of life appeared. For all that we could see, we were but only lonely voyagers upon the boundless prairie. The reverend gentleman became so absorbed in viewing the landscape that he missed the road.

The sun went down; the twilight deepened. One by one the stars peeped out, and still no signs of the little town of Seward, where we had hoped to find supper and a bed. About midnight, however, the hotel came in sight, and we were hospitably entertained by the landlord, who gave up his own bed to furnish us a resting place. The landlord was the Mr. Clough who was so deeply involved in the terrible tragedy which happened five years after in this same hotel. We were only too glad to stretch ourselves on a good bed, and we lay down to a dreamless sleep on this our first night in our new Eldorado.

The next morning, bright and early, we resumed our journey under skies as fair, through air as balmy as ever. At noon we stopped for dinner at a half-way house, and here I had my first sight of the interior of a sod house. To say that it was not inspiring would be putting it very mildly. A dirt floor, roof of willows upheld by a big tree for a ridgepole in the center, wooden bunks built around the sides of the walls for beds, and to complete the picture a barefooted woman in a soiled calico dress. My heart was fast going down into the region of my boots, but I called up the spirit of my Puritan ancestors. I invoked the Salem witches, from whom I can claim direct descent, and I set my teeth in grim determination not to be daunted by the first untoward obstacle in my path. We were refreshed by a good dinner of bacon and eggs, coffee and hot biscuits, and continued our journey, to pull up about sundown at the hospitable home of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tagg, where we found a good supper and a warm welcome awaiting us. Here was

a sod house, consisting of three good-sized rooms, a carpeted floor, plastered walls, and many of the comforts, and even luxuries of civilization. Here we rested and visited over Sunday.

On Monday morning I drove over to our claim to see the house which was to be our residence, for a while at least until we should finish a frame house which my brother had already commenced, and which would be ready for occupancy before cold weather. They told us, though, that Nebraska winters were lovely, and that we had nothing to fear from cold or storms.

I found a place about 10x12, half dugout, half sod, a dirt floor, dirt walls, and a shingled roof which slanted to the south. We had two windows, one on the north, which I could only reach by the aid of a chair, the other on the west. Our cabin opened to the south. A sod partition extended through the building, the east half being used as a stable for the horses and cow. My sensations can be better imagined than described as I contemplated the prospect. To add to the cheerfulness of the outlook, somebody had picked a chicken and left the feathers somewhat promiscuously scattered about. However, we did not stop long to contemplate or moralize, but went vigorously to work to make the cabin habitable. We bestowed our belongings as compactly as possible, to wit: A cook stove, bed, table, and cooking utensils (which for convenience were stowed under the bed). The rest, organ, bureau, etc., were put on the north side of the house and protected with an old wagon cover.

The weather continued delightfully warm and balmy, and we were flattering ourselves that our frame house would soon be ready to occupy.

It had been a delightful day in November, somewhere about the middle, I believe. The sun had set in a blaze of glory. I woke sometime in the middle of the night to find my bed wet with what felt like snow and the wind was howling as if all the spirits of the storm were turned loose. The morning revealed the fact that our bed was covered with about two inches of snow, our door barricaded by a big drift, and the whirling sleet made it dangerous to venture out. We were in the midst of a genuine Nebraska blizzard. To add to our discomfort we had only green elm to burn, and a scanty supply of that. I wrapped the children in blankets and quilts to keep them even moderately warm. Meanwhile, the parson put on his heavy soldier's overcoat and chinked up the cracks and crevices through which the snow and wind were making rapid inroads.

It was, I believe, three days before the storm cleared so that we could get to Beaver Creek, two miles away, and obtain some decent fuel. Meanwhile we whistled to keep our courage up and emulated Mark Tapley, who got jolly in proportion as things grew dark.

We had three blizzards that winter, one after the other, and we began to think that the famous Nebraska winters were a myth. Our baby had not been well all winter, and finally grew so much worse that my husband went about six miles to find the only doctor in the vicinity. He came back bringing no doctor, but a bottle of carbolic acid. The doctor said that was all the medicine he had. I thought he might have come at least. I declined to administer the carbolic acid, but happened to remember a simple, old-fashioned remedy which I had on hand, and gave, and then I watched all night in fear and trembling. But with the morning the little fellow seemed better and the danger was averted.

We gave up all hopes of finishing our house before spring, and settled ourselves

to remain all winter in our little dugout with as good grace as possible. One day, in April, I think it was, my husband started for Lincoln to get a load of lumber for the house. I got a friend to stay with me during his absence, as he would be gone two days. It was a warm, cloudless morning when he started, but by noon the sky was overcast with clouds, and at 4 o'clock it commenced to snow and the wind began to rise. We gathered a supply of fuel, got supper and by 8 o'clock there was a whirling, howling blizzard upon us from the north. We got the children in bed, left the light burning and put our clothing within reach, not knowing but that before morning we should be without a roof to cover us, for the wind from the north lifted our roof, and all night long it danced over our heads, and we lay shivering, expecting to be driven out before the blast. Morning found the storm somewhat abated, and we were thankful that a roof still covered us.

My brother had gone east to bring his wife, a New England woman accustomed to all the luxuries and refinements of the East. The parson went to Lincoln with the lumber wagon to meet them and bring them up to their future home. During his absence my friend and I fixed up the cabin. We put down a rag carpet on the three feet of floor which occupied the center of the cabin, put up white curtains at the windows and a valance about the bed to conceal the cooking utensils, washed the children's faces and arrayed them in clean gingham gowns, and then prepared what was for us a sumptuous supper. I remember that I had concocted some mince meat out of such odds and ends as I could find, and in lieu of green apples I had used all the extracts and cordials that I had on hand. My brother had assisted at the operation. In fact, he had been chief cook upon the occasion. We considered it a masterpiece. This was my *piece de resistance* for supper. We also had some canned cherries which I had brought from Illinois, some gingerbread, molasses, and some fried bacon and warm, light biscuit, with coffee.

We flattered ourselves that we were pretty "swell." But, alas for our expectations, our dirt cabin and fine fixin's failed to impress Mrs. C. She couldn't eat any supper, and evidently considered the "grace" which was said at the table an entirely superfluous affair. The parson himself confessed that as he drove up with his dainty New England freight the little cabin, with the pile of debris and the cow in front, didn't look remarkably inviting.

We finished our house sufficiently to make it habitable that spring, and moved in.

Some time in the spring of 1872 Brother Davis came up to York to hold a quarterly meeting. There had been a freshet, and Father Baker had ferried Brother Davis over Beaver Creek in a sorghum pan. In those days a quarterly meeting was a very important event, and as we were to entertain the elder we of course laid ourselves out in the way of housekeeping. We intended to do things up in style. We had induced the men to put us up the inevitable summer kitchen (sod) so dear to every woman's heart, and were planning on a fine layout in the culinary department. Alas for our hope! The freshet flooded our sod kitchen to the depth of six inches or more and I helped get Brother Davis' Sunday morning breakfast, wading around in my bare feet, in water halfway to my knees. I don't suppose the brother had any idea through how many tribulations we concocted that breakfast of fried chicken, canned cherries, etc.

It was some time in that same spring that another incident occurred that might have forever put an end to any more pioneering. The snows had been very heavy

all winter, and the roads were almost impassable. But Sunday dawned warm and pleasant and we were glad to avail ourselves of the chance to take an outing. Mr. Morgan had gone with the horse and buggy to the Bussard school house to hold morning service and Mr. Mellersh, Mrs. Tagg and children, and myself, with two babies, started about noon in the lumber wagon for Father Baker's, where Mr. Morgan was to hold services in the afternoon. We had a lovely drive through the fresh spring air, and arrived at the creek to find the little bridge covered with two feet of water. The bridge was just wide enough for a team and wagon, and one false step would precipitate us all into the water. We noticed Father Baker standing on the opposite side, gesticulating with his arms and evidently shouting to us, but our driver paid no attention, gave the reins to the horses, and almost as if by a miracle we passed safely over. We found Father Baker white with fear. He told us that we were the first to pass over the bridge during the flood, and that it was a wonder we were not all tipped over and drowned. I rode back in the buggy with Mr. Morgan, and we found the draws flooded with water and ice, the water often coming up into the buggy, while the horses went plunging along over the cakes of ice and through torrents of water. We finally reached home in safety, as did the rest of our company, thanks to protecting Providence.

Our larder in those days was not always as well supplied as it might have been. I remember one instance, in particular, where a scarcity of provisions was very embarrassing. I think it was on Tuesday morning. We were then living in our own sod house (quite a residence, by the way, of which we were very proud). We had a living room, bedroom, pantry, and chamber upstairs which was reached by an adjustable ladder which could be hooked up when not in use. Our parishioners had made a "bee" and laid the sod for us, and we had a very comfortable house. I remember that on this particular morning I had discovered a bedbug (whisper it not in Gath), and had turned the house out of doors in consequence. About 11 o'clock I chanced to glance eastward and there, coming over the hill, were a horse and buggy. Oh, my prophetic soul, I knew by the pricking of my thumbs that meant company. Sure enough, three ladies from town had come out to spend the day, one of them from Fairmont and whom I had never met. My first thought was, What have I got to eat? I made a hurried mental inventory of my edibles, and it stood thus: Meat, none; butter, none; fruit, none; vegetables—yes. I did have about one mess of green peas growing in the garden. I had some flour, milk and tea. So we dined off green peas, hot biscuits without butter, and tea. We had plenty of hot water, anyway.

Time wore on and our little church grew and flourished until we were able to put up a church building with the aid of good friends in other denominations. In those days the denominational lines were very lightly drawn. We were not Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Baptists, but a unit of Christian people trying to establish a town and county that should be God-fearing, temperate, and a synonym for the highest type of Christianity. I thank God that the work we did was well done, and that always the town of York has stood as a bulwark against the saloon power, and has been a representative town in the state for a broad catholic Christianity.

When we had finished our little church the reverend felt that nobody but Dr. Miner Raymond, of the Northwestern University, was equal to the occasion for the dedicatory exercises. We felt that we were laying big foundations and we

wanted a big, broad man to lay the corner-stone. Dr. Raymond consented to come, and two other churches secured his services. The reverend and I met him at Fairmont with "Tod," who was then only a three-months-old baby. I can inform you housekeepers that then and there my troubles began. We were to entertain the doctor, and he was, of course, accustomed to all the luxuries of a Chicago market. Butter was an impossible article. Likewise fresh meat. I had no chickens, and the canned fruits which we were able to obtain were not palatable. To add to my distress, the doctor was far from well, the water having disagreed with him, so that his stomach was all out of order. Hence, our fare of fried bacon, eggs and sorghum was all out of the question for him. I think he lived mostly on boiled milk for the first three days of his stay with us. About Friday he felt a little better, and began to manifest a good deal of anxiety about the dedication exercises. The music especially seemed to weigh on his mind. "Have you a choir?" he asked. We confessed that we qualified to such an article. In fact we had a good choir and organist, and both would have done credit to an eastern town. But I did not enlighten the doctor. As he seemed to think that "no good thing could come out of Nazareth," I thought I'd leave him with his own opinion. On Friday evening the doctor insisted that we have a choir practice. So about 9 o'clock we went over to Mrs. Millen's, who lived about a mile away, for a practice. The doctor insisted on accompanying us, though we would very much have preferred to have left him at home. We arrived rather later and found Mr. and Mrs. Millen in bed. She got up and dressed, however, pulled out the organ from its box in the corner, and we sang a little, while the doctor took a survey of the premises, a sod house, dirt roof, the interior lit by a dim kerosene lamp. Certainly the outlook was not very promising. The next night we left the doctor at home, took our choir down to the church and had a good practice.

On Saturday night we entertained fourteen people who had come up from the Blue and other localities to attend the dedication. I'll never tell where we put them to sleep, except that the reverend occupied a pile of sacks at the head of the stairs.

The doctor continued very suspicious about the exercises, especially the raising of money. "Where are the people to come from?" he asked. "I don't see any houses." And again, "Unless you are a better man than I think you are, William, you'll never raise the money." On Sunday morning the little church was packed. Teams stood thick all about the place, and men were standing outside the doors and windows. After the singing of the first hymn by the choir and congregation the doctor settled back with a look of solid satisfaction on his face. He preached one of his best sermons. The occasion seemed to inspire him. At the close of the discourse the men and women from the little sod houses and dugouts scattered over the prairie, and the men from the lawyers' and doctors' offices in the town showed the material of which they were made, when out of their limited means they subscribed \$1,100, and raised every dollar of the church indebtedness.

One little incident, which gives a light among these shades, I desire to recall. The parson, after the manner of parsons, had traded for a saddle horse, which he rode on his Sunday tours from York to Lincoln Creek and return. Now it chanced that the parson's horse had been at some time in his life used on the race track, and was an animal of no mean pedigree or paces. One Sabbath two of the young men of York, who have since achieved dignity with their years accompanied the parson on his Sunday rounds, they also mounted on horseback. On the road home the

parson was riding leisurely along, a little in front, when something very much like a wink passed between the horsemen in the rear, and they immediately put their horses to their top speed. The parson's nag needed no spur. He "smelt the battle from afar," rose to the occasion and soon distanced his competitors. The parson always claimed that he pulled his horse up as soon as he could collect himself, but the "boys" tell a different tale, and have never ceased to relate how the parson raced horses on Sunday.

I might tell much more. Scene after scene of those days crowds upon my memory. How we fought fire and flood, grasshoppers and famine, and above all whiskey. How hot the battle raged at times, till even the staunchest trembled. But God gave us strength to hold on, until finally victory perched upon our banners, and the saloon forces beat an ignominious retreat.

And now the shadows are gathering over our pathway. The faces of the pioneers show lines of care. Toil and sorrow have whitened the once sunny hair. We are facing towards the sunset. Soon the places that have known us will know us no more. But among the cherished memories that we shall carry with us into the land of the hereafter will be the memory of our pioneer days in York, and among those who shall meet and greet us in the bright beyond, there will be none dearer than our old friends of York County.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY MRS. GEORGE BOWERS AT AN OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC

We were living at Fairbury, Ill., when we made up our minds to go west. We joined a colony that was locating homesteads at Gibbon, Buffalo County. We packed our goods and shipped them to Gibbon, having a promise of reduced freight. George's brother Amos came down from Joliet and they started with their teams to drive through. George thought he would let me stay about six months, or until he got some kind of a house for me and the baby. When they crossed the Missouri River they fell in with eight more old soldiers coming after homestead lands, among them being John Lett, William Cross, Robert Lytle and Art Draucher. They went to the land office in Lincoln and were told that there was no government land in York County, so they thought they would have to strike for Fillmore County. In the meantime George and Amos had given up all thoughts of Gibbon, deciding that it was too far west and the ten old soldiers were going to locate near each other. When they reached Beaver Crossing they met Zachariah Heath, who had been here and taken a homestead and was on his way back looking for work. He told them that there was plenty of government land in York County and told them which way to go to find Aikins Mills post-office and that Mr. Aikins would locate them. When they reached Aikins they left their lumber wagons and drove on to Hamilton County to look around, where they found Mr. Spafford trying to bore a well. He had got down eighty feet and broke the auger. They were disgusted with the country and the whole bunch, and they came back and located within a few miles of each other with Aikins Mills as their post-office. They then piled up some sod to hold their claims till they could go to Lincoln and file on them. Next they broke out an acre in the northwest corner of our claim and, while doing so, dropped a few potatoes in the furrow and plowed them under and planted a little corn the same way. They broke a fire guard next to the road, then broke on the line between George's land and his brother's (N. hf. sec. 8-10-3). Then

they went up one side and down the other breaking as much on one claim as on the other, about ten acres. They had been here about six weeks when George wrote for me to come at once or he would not stay. He had our goods shipped back to Columbus from Gibbon, and the railroad was so put out because he did not locate at Gibbon that they charged double rates for shipping them back, and he did not have money enough to pay the freight so he broke out ten acres of land for Dr. Greer, who had filed on the southeast quarter of the same section our land was on, and thus secured enough money to pay the freight. George had taken the cook stove, two chairs, mattress, besides some boxes of canned goods, some potatoes and seed corn when he drove through. There was a water hole at the back of our homestead in a draw where George set up the stove. He stood two large boxes on end a few feet apart, laid some poles across and then covered them with a quilt to set the table under, which by the way was another box, staked the wagon cover over it, and we slept in it. We lived that way about a week, and then they all worked together and built a sod building for a stable, and we lived in it all summer. As I was the first woman to come, they built ours first, then they put up sod houses for nearly all.

By that time they had learned more about breaking the sod, cutting and hauling it, when it was the toughest to handle, etc. Then in the fall they built a better house for our home. It had windows and doors and a floor in half of it. I put down a rag carpet which I brought with me. We put a lot of straw on the ground and put my carpet in the half that had no floor, but before our house was finished, George, with others, went out west to kill buffalo for meat. My second son was just one week old and I was still living in the stable with blankets for doors and windows. When George had been gone about a week it began to rain and then it turned into snow and we had a regular Nebraska blizzard. The door was in the west and was drifted full, so I had to crawl out the window and drag in poles and chop them in the house to keep from freezing. I stayed in bed as long and as much as I could with my two boys (the oldest was two years). When the storm was over Mr. Eberhart sent his oldest son to see how I had stood the racket, with instructions for me to come there till George got home, so I took the two boys, one on each arm, and waded through the snow one-half mile while the Eberhart boy carried a little grip. I stayed there several days. When George returned he had plenty of buffalo meat, and we got through the winter very well.

George hauled goods from Columbus for Aikins, who in the meantime had started a little store on Lincoln Creek (Aikins Mills). The first summer we had no cow, no chickens, no pigs, no milk, no eggs, no butter. In the fall our brother-in-law, O. D. Keeler, came out and took a homestead. He brought a box as large as he could get checked as baggage and my folks sent me a few things to eat, among which was some eggs. We took thirteen to Mrs. Aikins and got them to set them for us and then gave her a dollar for the hen. She hatched seven chicks, and we brought her home and the second night something caught the hen. I then had to bring them in the house every night for a while, until George fixed a sod coop for them. While George was putting up hay (by the way, he broke two acres of prairie for Lem Gandy to pay for a scythe to cut his hay and had to cut it all that way), I crawled on my hands and knees and lifted the sod and picked up the potatoes, of which we had three grain sacks full, but when the blizzard came our potatoes froze, and so did my chickens. We only had flour enough the first year to

make gravy, and we lived on corn bread; poor stuff, too. With no milk or lard, not enough lard to even grease the pan. After moving into our sod house I went down to the northwest corner where our little patch of breaking was, took an old hatchet and chopped holes in the sod and planted some cucumbers, beans and melons. There were quite a number of Indians around begging, so when my garden was ready for use I would get my baby asleep, put him on the bed and run for dear life to pick a few beans or cucumbers, for fear the Indians would steal him while I was gone. We gathered wild plums on the creek, and as we had no sugar we cooked them with our muskmelons into a jam—the melon making the sweetening. In the spring when Keeler came out he chartered a car to Columbus and father sent me a cow, pig and a dozen chickens and we started in with bright hopes. We sowed wheat on the breaking and oats on the fire guard, and left a little garden and everything began to grow and look nice when, about the 20th of June, there came a hail storm and everything was cut to the ground. We felt pretty blue. George hitched up his team and went to Beaver Crossing, where he broke four acres and took corn for pay. He brought home with him a kitten, the first cat I had seen in Nebraska. After the hail I replanted my garden and had some late cucumbers and beans and the corn came out and made a few small ears. That fall my folks sent me a barrel of things, navy beans, dried apples, sweet corn and \$2 worth of sugar. All this time the settlers hauled all their fuel from the Platte River. It took two days to make the trip. Those who came ahead of us had taken all the creek claims with any timber. Sometimes George could wade around in the water on the railroad land, every other section was railroad land, and get a little driftwood.

From my dozen chickens I raised about fifty more, so I had about thirty hens to start in with the next year. George got little ash poles and made some frames for chairs like the old-fashioned splint bottom, and I sewed grain sacks on them for seats. We had no bedstead for two years, instead we had stakes drove in the ground and poles laid on them, and the fleas nearly ate us.”

NARRATIVE OF MRS. CAP. J. B. READ

For answer to a request for my experience during the pioneer days in York County, I will say, it was not that we were intending to profit by Horace Greeley's advice to “Go west and grow up with the country” that brought us to Nebraska. We drifted in, as it were, intending to go on to California. We drove from Omaha by way of Fremont, over the prairie from which the grass had recently been burned, and late one Sunday afternoon in April, 1870, we stopped at D. T. Moore's and asked for shelter for the night. It set in for a good rain, which continued for three days and during that time my husband, J. B. Read, decided he would settle here. We pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres, three miles north of York, built a two roomed sod house, a sod stable, dug a cave and had a well dug. We had to go to Lincoln for our housekeeping outfit and I tried every place while there to buy feathers enough for two pillows, but not an ounce could I find, so when I returned home I made hay pillows and a hay bed which we used until we could get our bed and bedding shipped to us, which was a long tedious task, owing to our lack of mail facilities and so far from a railroad. We received our mail at Beaver Crossing and only once a week, and it was there we

sent our letters to be mailed. Upon one occasion when I was so anxious to get that precious bed and bedding here, I found myself without letter paper, but a letter must be sent, so it was written on light brown wrapping paper.

Prairie chickens were numerous and as my husband was a good marksman we enjoyed many a feast on wild game. And here I will relate my own experience in the "chase." One day, seeing a deer enter a ravine and her fawn by her side, I was filled with a wild desire to capture that baby deer. So I started out with a dog, and when I came to the ravine the old deer bounded away over the Prairie with the dog in pursuit. After searching the weeds for a while I saw this little deer had slipped out and was going in the direction its mother had gone. Then came a race that I realized must be a "home stretch" from the beginning and I threw off my bonnet and bent every energy to the task. When within a few yards from it the little animal seemed to realize its danger and dropped in the grass to hide. I took it home and it became my companion in many rambles over the prairies.

When we had been here a year grief came to us in the death of our three months old babe, our first born. No coffin could be procured nearer than Platts-mouth, so we sought the service of a carpenter, and that it might not look so much like a pine box, I sent a broad cloth cloak to cover it, but there were no tacks with which to fasten the cloth in place; none to be found nearer than Seward. Pins were cut in two and by crossing them made to do service. Another difficulty arose when time to close the coffin, there were no screws with which to fasten the lid. Judge Moore took one of his doors from the hinges that the screws might be used.

After paying for our one hundred and sixty acres, we homesteaded an eighty two miles farther north and virtually began again at the bottom of the ladder to build, break prairie and plant trees.

Then the grasshoppers came, but we were better prepared to meet the disaster than in previous years. We had plenty of wheat, fattened two hogs on wheat and raised potatoes enough to last all winter and for seed at planting time.

Of the hardships and privations that were the common lot of all who came in the early days, I will not write, it is too well known to those who stood so loyally together on the bleak, black waste of the York County of that day.

NARRATIVE OF MR. CHRISTIAN HOLOCH

Father and mother and we six children drove from Illinois with our old horses, took a homestead June 15, 1866. We first pitched our tent on the Blue River and went to work building a dugout, and to get ready for the winter as we had hard winters and lots of snow. This is what made it hard for us, the snow was so deep that a team could not get through, we had to go to Lincoln to get anything at all and no money to get anything with. It was too late to raise anything when we came and there wasn't anything in the line of work to be done, so we had to stay for we couldn't get away. Never will I forget the time when we didn't have enough to eat and many times I heard mother say "I don't know where the next meal will come from." For three weeks we lived on homemade hominy, in the making of which we took the wood ashes to hull the corn and we didn't even have salt to pour over it; for clothes, we had no shoes, mother made us rag

shoes which we six children all wore. I remember the first pair of shoes I had after we came west to Nebraska. We saw buffalo, deer, antelope and wild turkeys, but hadn't anything to shoot them with. There were lots of Indians here then and we were afraid of them at first; they would beg the last mouthful we had and we would give them some of what we had for the reason that we were afraid of them and thought they would kill us; that was all we worried about as we had been told that they would kill us if we didn't give them something to eat.

We could catch fish any time we could go to the river and cut a hole in the ice and put a piece of red calico on the hook and the moment it was in the water we would have a fish bite; we didn't have anything to fry them in so mother used to boil them, but we got so sick of boiled fish that we children could hardly look at them. Thank you, no more boiled fish in mine. I can smell them yet and that is forty years ago. I wasn't very old those days but I can remember things better that happened then than I can remember things now. But those times were the happiest times in our lives, everybody was so good and sociable and that is more than can be said of the people of today, one would divide with the other.

NARRATIVE OF MONTRAVILLE ROBBINS

On the 2d of September, 1871, we left the town of Lawrenceville, Illinois, for Nebraska, arriving in York County on the 20th day of September. We made this trip in a covered wagon, and had made the same trip in the same wagon and with the same team of horses from Lawrenceburg, Indiana, the year before. Our trip took us through Missouri about three hundred miles, which was not a very pleasant journey as it was just after the war. Mrs. Robbins and I were alone several nights. I lay under the wagon with my rifle as we did not have a watch dog with us. The first thing I did in York County was to look up a piece of land and go to Lincoln and and homestead it. There was no railroad in the county at that time nor was there in Fairmont, as we passed the construction party at Dorchester. After the Burlington got to Fairmont we did our trading there, but before that time we went to mill with our grain to Lincoln. Then we had grist mills at Milford, later at Beaver Crossing, then one at Red Lion, and a few years later the town of York began to loom up. Doc Converse began the building of the Union Pacific Railroad as a competing line of the Burlington; no corruption there you see. At that time all the settlers in the county were along Blue River, there were no houses on the high prairie. I did not wait to buy lumber, for I had nothing much to buy with; I looked around for the best location I could find and dug a hole in the bank, a kind of combination, part dugout with a front made out of nice prairie sod covered with brush and soil, all in one room, there was no parlor, but we left a place on the side so we could build a parlor at a more convenient season. That winter we did not live sumptuously—no meat, butter or milk, barley coffee. The next spring I shot deer, also an antelope, then we had some meat. The next fall when I got a dressed hog at Beaver Crossing it was away in the night before I got home, and down about Blue Vale a pack of wolves came after me and I had to fight them off until I got up west of McFadden, they were on both sides of the wagon trying to jump in; I had no gun but they finally left me.

Our next experience was the Easter storm on the 12th day of April, 1873;

a good many of the present settlers will remember this storm in our dugout; we were covered over for three days and nights with a light burning all the time and we could hardly tell whether it was day or night. There were times when it tried men's souls and temper, but we were in a good humor, if I do say it myself, and did the best we could under the circumstances. I should have said that the fall before this I went away down on the Blue and got five bushels of potatoes and a half dozen chickens and expected to have eggs for sale the next summer. I buried the potatoes and made a nice henhouse in the side of the bank for the chickens. In the meantime the potatoes all froze and the coyotes came in and just before daylight one morning cleaned up all the chickens, so with the snow storm, grasshoppers, the loss of the potatoes and poultry and but very few neighbors, things looked rather discouraging. Although we had neighbors that lived within one-half mile of us, Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, they were in the side of another bank and we did not know they were living there. We were young then and courageous, and little things like that didn't bother us. I got a well auger and made wells. I was gone from home a week at a time; during this time Mrs. Robbins would be living alone in the dugout with wolves and stray Indians about. Finally we got a sewing machine and several times Mrs. Robbins had to give the Indians demonstrations on this sewing machine. There were no roads then on section lines, and I can remember when we were coming to York we would take the nearest way possible. At first York consisted of a little frame house and one sod, but now as I stand on Hill Side and look over the city it is surely wonderful to see what a splendid city with its fine buildings and shade trees all built up where forty years ago there was nothing but the raw prairie. With all the hardships in the pioneer days, we have lived through them without having to go back to wife's folks and we feel fully repaid in staying by York County and sometimes I think probably we ought to be more thankful for what we have and for our health and friends.

REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER DAYS

By L. D. Stilson, Soldier and Farmer

I was born July 26, 1839, in Erie County, N. Y., and lived there until the breaking out of the war of 1861-65, when on September 16, 1861, I enlisted in Company D, 49th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers and went to the war and was soon partaker of the incidents of warfare. A bullet struck me in my chin passing up into my mouth thus rendering the eating of hard tack an unpleasant task. At another time I was put with others to digging trenches; an accident occurred which nearly proved serious. A man behind me, in the trench struck me across my back with his pick, accidentally of course. In the battle at Antietam I was wounded in the head and was unconscious for some time. When I came to the battle was over and dead soldiers lay all around me, but at last I was picked up and taken to the hospital; as soon as I recovered I was again at my post of duty. I received bullet wounds at other times. Once in getting away from the enemy at Libby prison by escaping between two guards, they fired a shot that entered the calf of my leg which I'll carry to the day of my death. I was discharged the 16th day of December, 1862, on account of physical disability,

and lay in the hospital at Annapolis Junction for three months from chronic difficulties caused from exposure in camp and field.

I came back to my "father's house" where kind friends cared for me most tenderly and I improved quite rapidly. In the spring I went to farming on my father's farm (my father and mother had moved to town some four miles away). I found it quite lonesome living alone, and I sought a companion to whom I was married on January 10, 1864, a Miss LaDelle Cushman, who has been a devoted wife and mother of four sons and one daughter.

I came to York County, Nebraska, March, 1870, locating on a homestead on section 22, township 10, range 2. I spent a few days looking around and went into Iowa, where I superintended the building of my uncle's house. After an absence of two months I went back to York State and spent the summer settling up business and getting ready to go to my western home. I left there the last of August, leaving my wife and two sons to come later. My wife was convalescing from a severe attack of spinal fever. At Lincoln, Nebraska, I was given a chance to work for the B. & M. R. R. Co., in the bridge and construction gang, from Crete to Kearney; I was with them until we reached the end of the line to Kearney. I then came to York and went to work, superintending carpenter work. I helped to build the first frame building in York. I put up some forty frame buildings in York, and several school houses in York County. I tried farming on my homestead by hiring the breaking done at four or five dollars an acre, I also put up a frame building 12x20 for a house on my farm and went back to York State for my family, July 26, 1872, returning the last of the month.

The next great event was the April storm. The day of the 13th of April had been a lovely day, but as night came on a huge black bank of clouds came up from the northwest, bringing a thunder storm and then growing cold as the north wind came, turning the rain to snow, beating against the windows and blowing the snow into every crack and crevice. For three days we were without fresh water. As we had no well and it was unsafe to go to the neighbors, we melted snow and kept as warm as we could, burning corn on the ear and wrapping up in outer garments; no meat in the house for three days, but the good Lord provided on the third day. In the afternoon the sun came out and looking out the south window on a pile of corn we saw a prairie chicken getting something to eat. The chicken was prepared and we enjoyed the feast.

We helped to establish a Sunday school in our district school house and had a good attendance of some seventy-five persons. We also had preaching service during the summer by Reverend Broadwell, a Methodist preacher and homesteader living some four miles west of us. Then came the days of grasshoppers in 1873-4. The sun darkened at noon day by the insects; at feeding times how the idolized gardens suffered, even eating into the onion bulbs, stripping trees, bushes and cornfields till nothing remained but bare stalks. The prospect was not very promising. One morning we observed immense flocks of birds which proved to be swallows; they seemed to be feeding upon the grasshoppers. Another morning after a heavy thunder storm the ground was covered with tiny frogs, walking along over them they would crunch and sound like breaking eggshells; never since have we witnessed the like.

The early days of pioneer life were fraught with trials and disappointments.

When everything seemed to point towards prosperity, something would take place to discourage and darken our prospects, and we come down to the years of helplessness with the satisfaction that we did the best we could within our environments, and now, I bid you adieu.

FACTS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

A. W. WIRT

My first visit to free-soil Nebraska and first State Fair held at Lincoln was in September, 1872. With Brother A. B. Codding from Mendota, Ill., I filed on section 14, township 12, range 3, A. B. Codding on section 34 (Moved March, 1873). On Easter Sunday, April 12th, at sunset, we watched the approach of the noted Easter blizzard coming from the northwest in a perfect half circle like a new hemisphere had broken loose; sure it was a "scare sight." Fleeing before it were birds of all kinds, buzzards, hawks, owls and crows. They were frightened, wearied and fell to the ground. The storm lasted three days and nights. Many families had just moved into new sod shanties. There was much suffering and lack of fuel and shelter for stock; one young man perished in the effort to care for his team. Other families took their team—their only support—into the shanty with them; it was the only refuge, they could not see them perish at the door. Many cattle drifted with the storm and snow and perished. The wind and snow were so fierce and blinding that the only safe place was the sod shanty, and stay there.

Then, there cometh another evil that no man knoweth from whence it came—that grasshopper raid, August, 1874. They came as clouds, dropping to the earth and covering the ground, and consumed immense stuff for a meal. They remained three days and nights and ate the entire corn crop of the county, which was earing fine; they ate leaf, ear and stalk. (Wheat was in shock). Their green eyes beheld every tender leaf and plant. Wife's garden was her summer's delight and promise, but while we slept they ate it top and root; with open hole in the ground. Turkeys and chickens feasted till ashamed and disgusted. Faithful teams shook their manes and snorted like Pharaoh's horses. Cows broke loose and ran for relief, the women cried. The grasshoppers went as they came—suddenly and in clouds. They shadowed the sun and the men said, "Lord, we are willing," and we went nine miles to Sunday school. Wife and baby Nellie and papa (to balance) went, on a riding corn plow rig and buggy box to Capt. Eberhart's school house in 1875. This was a new frame school house on section 8, township 11, range 2, by M. Sovereign's homestead. A Sunday school was easily organized—house full—Sovereign, superintendent; Hon. Wm. H. Keckley, Bible teacher. The whole vicinity rallied like soldiers to their flag; it was a place for prayer, song and cheer. Stromsburg Sunday school sent invitations to visit them; Father Keckley moved: "If anybody goes we all go." We had two four-horse (long reach) rigs decorated, mounted by U. S. flag, school banner and a set of sleigh bells on both teams to lead the way, with F. J. Parris and Samuel Sidwell as marshals to keep the music quiet, for it was Sunday. To say the least, Stromsburg gave a happy greeting and the shady grove on the Blue River for our picnic dinner—"Remember the Joy Life as Well."

The last wild buffalo: Three stray grazers were seen the summer of 1874 in the northwestern part of the county and just northwest of York. One was shot by Jess Gandy near the Washburn Ranch on Lincoln Creek; the other two unawares came very close to three women who were taking a walk to Joe Boyers; they were Mrs. R. B. Brabham, Mrs. Wm. Greer and Mrs. Ronaga. (One lost her knitting, another her shoes.) The two remaining buffalo were shot, one near Stromsburg in a pool, the last at South Bend on the Platte.

In June, 1886, the press of York paid tribute to one of York County's stalwart pioneer builders.

After arranging business matters here so as to make his home in Kansas permanent, Mr. L. J. Gandy bid farewell to his many friends in York yesterday and departed for his new home. For the past fifteen years, the period of Mr. Gandy's residence in York, there has been scarcely a public enterprise projected with which he has not been closely connected. Energetic and liberal to a fault, he was prompt to step forward and assist in locating the Methodist college in our city, and has been one of the directors of the institution ever since its establishment. He has taken from his pocket and distributed in our midst upwards of two thousand dollars for charitable and educational purposes and was never known to refuse aid or lend support to any good and worthy cause. At one time Mr. Gandy was, perhaps, the most popular man in York County. He never lost an opportunity to make a friend, and was one of the recognized leaders of the republican party. In fact he was the shrewdest and most successful politician in this section of the state. After serving eight years as county treasurer he was appointed postmaster in this city, which position he held until after the inauguration of President Cleveland when he considered it more profitable and easier to resign than to die. Mr. Gandy has invested considerable money in Sherman County, Kansas, where he intends to make his future home, and with the bright prospects of the great West before him, we join his many friends here in predicting for him prosperity, wealth and happiness.

MRS. ROSA MC LELLAN

"Your letter brought to mind some very pleasant memories and again some not so pleasant. I do not know that I can write anything of help to you concerning the formation of school districts, churches or of political events of that day as it was a little previous for anything of that sort; we being the only residents of Hamilton County and afterwards one of about three or four families residing in York County.

"As you must know, there was an almost continual stream of emigration in those days, Mormons, gold seekers and others running from the draft, for we settled there during the Civil war. My father, mother, husband and myself first settled twenty-five miles east of the junction of the roads from Omaha, Nebraska City, Leavenworth and St. Joe, or twenty-five miles east of what was known as the old Warfield Ranch. We were on the road out from Nebraska City called the steam wagon road, or cut off, and by the way the old steam wagon never got any farther than Sterling Morton's home, four miles west of Nebraska City. It was a failure.

"At this ranch on the steam wagon road, I lost my first child, a little boy of

five years old, still buried there. One little daughter born there died at Beaver Crossing and was buried in Seward. There were many terrible snow storms. One I remember in particular, when a party of twenty-five started from Warfield's Ranch for our place, part in a large sleigh and two in a carriage. They were lost in the snow and found themselves between the road and the Blue River and were badly frozen. In the carriage was a well known and well liked wagon boss and with him a Denver liveryman by the name of Smith who was so badly frozen that he died the day he reached Nebraska City.

"The grasshopper raid was a dreadful plague. The air was filled with clouds of them. There were three seasons of grasshoppers, one while our home was in York County and two later when we were farming at Beaver Crossing. Along with other troubles we had an Indian scare, although the Indians came no nearer or farther than the Martin Ranch on the Platte. The Martins had two sons wounded by the Indians and Mrs. Martin took her family and came as far as our place, staying all night. Other campers going west turned back and my mother and I took the stage and left with the crowd, remaining away eight days before returning.

"There is a matter of which I wish to speak regarding the name, Jack Stone. While I was living in Seward a man came to me with questions about that early life and afterwards I saw that he had written of my husband, as John A. McLellen, alias Jack Stone. It seemed to infer the need of an alias and I consider it a great injustice, as Mr. McLellan was as fine a man as ever lived or traveled on that road and had friends by the score. It was by an act of kindness that he gained the name. One night he was stopping at a ranch above ours. In the crowd were all kinds of persons and one drunken rowdy tried to make others drink, especially an old man who refused. At this the fellow threw a glass of whiskey in the old man's face. My husband told him he had better pick on a younger man. The fellow replied, 'Do you know who you are talking to? My name is Wood.' On the spur of the moment Mr. McClellan said, 'My name is Stone.' The boys of the company thought it was very clever and the name clung to him while we lived there. We sold the ranch you speak of to a Mr. Waddel, who made a farm of it.

"While we were living at this ranch a number of families came from Wisconsin and settled on the Blue near where Sutton is now located. They were splendid people who became dear friends of ours. Among the company were the Hendersons and Waddels whose descendants I suppose are living somewhere around York and Sutton at this time. I am sorry that I could not answer your questions in a clearer or more definite way that would have been of use to you. Wishing the organization success in getting authentic reminiscences.

"ROSA C. McLELLAN, 1913."

THE STORY OF A YORK PIONEER

The following article was written by Will M. Maupin in 1918, who merely sat and listened while the old settlers of York County talked of the old days. The old settler declined to allow his name to be used at this time, but has promised to relate more of his early experiences and make his identity known.

After the article was written it was submitted to the old settler and he merely remarked: "If it is punctuated right and the words all spelled correctly, I guess we can let it go."

Before I can even begin the story of my experiences in Nebraska I must begin further back than my coming to this state. It was not a state when I came here, however. I was born in Ohio in 1844, had barely turned my seventeenth year when the Civil war broke out. My father long conducted a station on the "underground railroad," and from him I had inherited my abolition sentiments. I was born on a farm, and all my life, save the three years spent in the army, I have been a farmer. Enlisting in the spring of '62, and re-enlisting, I served until the close of the war, participated in the "Grand Review," at Washington and returned to my home near Chillicothe in the fall of '65. I had just achieved my majority and the rank of first sergeant. Army life had injected the virus of restlessness into my veins and I was not content to settle down in my old home. In the spring of 1866 I started west in a covered wagon. Father helped me outfit myself, and I had a good team, an extra horse, a few agricultural implements and \$200 in money. I had no particular destination in mind when I started, but rather inclined towards Kansas, for we had heard much about that section. But while traveling across Missouri I fell in with an outfit headed towards Nebraska, and finding the people therein congenial company I cast my fortunes with them. We crossed the river at St. Joseph about the first of September, then headed a little west of north. I recall that we passed through Highland, Kan., and traveled for a time up the valley of the Blue River. We stopped for a couple of days at a point where the thriving city of Beatrice now stands, and there several of the party left us, locating in the vicinity. From there on others began dropping out of the party, and when we reached what is now York County the few remaining decided that the country looked good to us, so we decided to remain. In due time I located my homestead, and with the help of those to whom I had given help, or later gave help, I built a little "soddie" for myself and one for my horses. There was not a mile of railroad west of the Missouri River when I landed in York County, but we had heard all about the Union Pacific and believed that in good time it would be built.

Our first winter was, fortunately, not a severe one, and our live stock managed to pick a living from the luscious grasses of the prairies. Game was abundant and we never lacked for fresh meat. Grouse, rabbits, an occasional antelope filled our larders, but we had to skimp a bit on the bread, and many is the night I have lain awake on my hard bed in that "soddie" and longed for a chance to set my teeth into one of mother's pies or grab a slice of her good "salt risin" bread. What provisions we could not secure with our guns we freighted from Nebraska City by a sort of "community arrangement." That is, each would make out a list of things needed and then chip in and pay some one in the community to make the long drive to Nebraska City and return. A couple of years later we were supplied from Lincoln, and by 1871 we had a market at York.

In the spring of '67 I broke a few acres for corn, and fortunately got a fairly good crop. This, together with the hay I cut, furnished me with ample feed for my horses, and for the one cow I had managed to buy from a neighbor eight or ten miles away. He was my nearest neighbor at that. I "bached" it on my claim for three years, and it seems that I met with better luck than some. By the time the summer of 1870 arrived I had some sixty acres under cultivation,

and I was the proud possessor of four good horses, a couple of colts, five or six head of cows and calves, a few chickens and a couple of brood sows. During these three long and lonesome years I had been corresponding with "the girl I left behind me," and her letters, infrequent enough, together with the still more infrequent letters from my parents, were about all I had to look forward to during the weary days and lonesome nights. We couldn't hook up and drive to the postoffice in a few minutes in those early days. If we got a chance to get mail once a month we were lucky.

After I had got my corn "laid by" in the summer of '71 I got a man to look after my stock, and I hiked back to Ohio, to get the girl. She had agreed to come, knowing very well the privations and the lonesomeness ahead of her. I walked to Central City and boarded a Union Pacific train, and was soon hurrying back to the old home. I changed cars eight times between Central City, Nebraska and Chillicothe, Ohio, and was four days making the trip. Two years ago my wife and I made the same trip. We changed cars twice, and we made the trip in thirty-six hours.

Wife and I got back to Central City in September, and my employe met us there with a team and wagon. We filled the wagon with provisions and a brand new bedstead, together with a little cookstove and a bit of coal. It was the first coal I had bought in Nebraska. We homesteaders had managed to get along with "buffalo chips" and wood from the bottom lands thus far. I found my live stock in good shape when I returned and wife and I went to work to make ours a real home. I had set out a number of cottonwoods around the "soddie" and these had a good start. Later we set out others, and in due time had a fine grove which furnished us with an ample fuel supply. But I must confess that it was some chore to keep a heating stove going in really cold weather with cottonwood chunks for fuel. It was all right for cooking, but it was fierce work keeping the house warm when the mercury tried to dodge below the zero mark. Up to this time the winters had not been unduly severe, but the winter of 1871-72 was a hard one. I lost a horse and a couple of young cows, and about half of my little flock of chickens disappeared. When spring came my live stock looked pretty thin. But my young wife buoyed up my courage and we tackled the future with cheerful hearts. Many is the time I have thanked God that I married when I did. If I had been forced to undergo the hardships of the summer of '71 and the following winter all alone, I would have been so discouraged that the chances would have favored my throwing up the whole thing and hiking back to Ohio. We didn't raise enough corn that summer to furnish us with corn meal for the winter. The heavens were as a bowl of brass from early June until late October, and the corn and the grass literally burned up. How we managed to get through that winter the Lord only knows—but we did. When the spring of '72 opened up I was far worse off financially than I was the day I landed in York County. I had two mighty gaunt horses, one cow in still worse shape—and nary a hog nor chicken. I did not have a dollar in money. In fact, all I had was my homestead, my little jag of implements, a handful of household goods—and the best wife a man ever had. I was down and out. I wanted to give up and go back east.

"We'll stay right here," said my wife. "If you could stand more than three years of army life, I guess the two of us can stand this sort of thing for a few months."

Actually she had to argue with me for a month to put my heart into me. But I managed to borrow \$35 from a former Ohio man who was old enough to be my father, and who was also a veteran of the war. I also negotiated a little bit of credit at York, and this gave me new hope. I not only had to hustle to make good that loan and that credit, but my wife had whispered to me that I had to buckle in and make good because she was expecting company early in the winter.

Up to that time I had not given much thought to religion, but I want to tell you, my friend, that when I peered into the future and saw that little wife of mine entering the Valley of the Shadow for the purpose of bringing back a little life with her, I started into thinking. It dawned upon me that we had to have some help from a source higher than any I had heretofore considered. We had a good crop that year, and I managed to get two or three head of hogs and another cow. Wife had secured a few chickens from a neighbor, and when cold weather set in we were well fortified against the winter as far as provisions and feed for the stock was concerned. But feed was not worrying me. As December approached I began worrying about what was soon to happen. Our nearest neighbors were miles away, and the nearest doctor was more than eighteen miles distant. A storm was blowing on the December afternoon when my wife told me that the expected was going to happen a week sooner than she had planned upon. I will never forget that ride across the prairies on a stormy December afternoon when I started for the neighbor woman who had agreed to help out in our difficulty. And if ever a man prayed I did as I started on that long, cold ride for a doctor who might not be at home when I arrived. I am not ashamed to acknowledge that right there and then I promised God that if He would see me through this experience all right, I'd never forget Him, and as nearly as it is possible for a frail man to keep a promise of that kind I have kept it. I found the doctor at home, and he hurriedly prepared himself for the eighteen mile ride to my home. Within an hour after we arrived a little daughter was born to us.

"I knew you would get back in time," whispered my wife to me a few minutes after the doctor and I arrived.

Maybe it wasn't an answer to my prayers and promise, my friend, but I have always believed it was, and I've tried to make good on the promise.

That splendid neighbor woman remained with us for two weeks, making an occasional trip home to see that her own little household was all right. We spent the rest of the winter comfortably, and I want to tell you, no mansion ever looked finer than that little sod house of ours with a lusty little baby daughter to brighten it. That little baby girl is now in charge of a home of her own, and it is a good one, too. I have been a grandfather for twenty years.

No, sir; things didn't go along all right after that. Not by a long shot. The grasshoppers came along and ate up everything but the sod house and sod barn. We had to humble our pride and accept donations from unknown friends in the East, and we went cold and hungry many a time, at that. Between grasshoppers and drouth and sickness and low prices when we did raise anything, we suffered privations in these early days that the second generation will never appreciate nor understand. Many gave up in despair and returned east. We thought then that they were fortunate in being able to make the return trip, and we envied them. A lot of us wanted to return and couldn't. Even my wife got a bit discouraged, and if we had been able to make the trip I guess we would

have joined the exodus. But we just had to stay—and now I am mighty glad we did.

By the time 1878 arrived we had got a new start. I had contrived to get hold of the quarter section next to mine, and we now had some really near neighbors. We had a subscription school, and at least once a month we had religious services—often twice a month. The railroads came nearer and nearer, and although the prices for our produce were frightfully low and the prices of what we had to buy frightfully high, we managed to get a little ahead. I do not believe that from the time I located in York County until the fall of 1878 that I handled a thousand dollars in money. Everything practically was barter. That is, we traded our corn and wheat for groceries and dry goods. We didn't sell many hogs, because we didn't raise many and usually ate them ourselves. Many's the time that wife's butter and egg money tided us over. By 1880 we were in pretty good shape. I had 320 acres of mighty good land, and I had managed to build a frame house, although we still used a sod barn. Also we had accumulated several head of cows and had a pretty good start in the live stock industry. We also had two lusty boys. Our second born had remained with us but a few months and we laid her away in a bleak little graveyard that topped the hill looking down into the valley of the Big Blue, six miles from our homestead.

A few weeks ago I heard a farmer complaining because he was offered only ninety cents for his wheat. He had to haul it less than three miles. I have hauled wheat thirty-five and forty miles and sold it for forty cents. I have hauled corn as far and sold it for twelve cents. I have hauled hogs thirty-five miles and sold them for \$3 a hundred. I have driven steers thirty-five miles, then shipped them by rail for 150, and rejoiced to get \$2.75 and \$3 for them. My wife has sold eggs for 8 cents a dozen and butter for 10 cents a pound. For a dollar's worth of eggs she got six pounds of "C" sugar or six or eight yards of calico. Today she can get more yards of calico for a couple of dozen eggs than she got for eight or nine dozen thirty-five years ago. She used to save cream for days, then work like a nailer churning, only to take six or seven pounds of butter to town and get in exchange a few yards of calico, or a few yards of gingham or fewer pounds of sugar than she had butter. She does not churn any more, but she still sells eggs. During the last ten years we have sold butter fat and eggs to an amount exceeding our returns from the farm during our first twenty years on it. It used to take us a whole day to make the trip to York and return by wagon, allowing a couple of hours for trading and visiting in town. We can now make the round trip in two hours and have all the time we need for trading and visiting. We don't have to go to town to see folks these days. We have neighbors within stone's throw, and we get to town practically every day. It is easier to ride to town in the car after a spool of thread than it used to be to drive in after enough stuff to last us a couple of weeks. We get our mail delivered within fifty yards of our front door every morning, and we have a telephone that connects us with the wide world. A railroad passes within a half-mile of our farm and it is less than two miles to the depot.

I used to have to carry water to the kitchen and to the barn. Now my wife turns a faucet in the kitchen, and I have piped water to the barn and the feed lot. I often hear my neighbors who came to the community after we had given it a

big start, complaining about this or that imposition, as they call it. And I often wonder what would have happened to them if they had been forced to undergo what we suffered during our pioneer days. It used to cost me about the price of one steer to get two of them to market, but now the price of one steer practically pays for hauling a car load of them to market. Besides I get more for one steer now than I used to get for two or even three. The "shrink" I had to stand thirty years ago, and which I escape now, is mighty near enough to pay for shipping my live stock to South Omaha.

Some special incidents of my pioneer days? Well, I could fill a book with them. Take the first visitation of grasshoppers, for instance. I woke up one morning with as fine a crop prospect as any man could wish. Before the sun set that evening the only green thing on the place was a window curtain at the front window of our sod house. The "hoppers" came in clouds that fairly obliterated the light of the sun. They left not a trace of vegetation behind them.

We had an Indian scare or two, also. I was plowing one June day in 1876 or '77 when I heard my wife frantically calling me and looked to see her running like a deer in my direction.* I ran to meet her and she gasped out that a whole tribe of Indians was approaching to the house. I made her lie down in the corn rows while I scouted a bit. We had not heard of any Indian uprising. I saw a white man among the Indians, and he seemed to be in charge. The Indians, about forty or fifty in number, including the squaws, were watering their ponies at my well. They did not look warlike, so I ventured to show myself. It developed that they were Pawnees en route north in charge of a government agent. They came up from Kansas to visit. They took nothing save the water from the well, and the white man in charge thanked me for that. An occasional Indian passed by our place, but they never bothered us any. We saw a few buffalo during our first year or two here, but they had been driven further west.

I came near losing my life one winter. I went to York on horseback and while there a blizzard started. Thinking I could reach home before the storm really broke I started out. Before I had gone half the distance I became lost. The wind was blowing a gale, and as I had to face it I soon chilled to the bone and the driving snow fairly smothered and blinded me. Fortunately my horse knew a thing or two that I did not, and just as I was about to give up in despair the animal carried me to a sod house. My cries soon caused the homesteader to open his door, and I managed to stagger in. My host tied a rope to his body and managed to get the horse to the barn a few yards away, then followed the rope back to safety. I froze both ears and both feet, and for several weeks I feared that it would be necessary to amputate my right foot. But I managed to save it.

We had practically no amusement at night. We were too tired to do much running around. We had to work like slaves during daylight hours. Occasionally we would make a visit to a neighbor on Sunday, but that meant either a walk of six or ten miles or forcing a tired team to haul us. We never lost an opportunity to attend divine services and my wife and I have often driven fifteen to twenty-five miles and back again, just to hear a sermon, and help sing some of the familiar old songs. The preachers we heard in those days did not content themselves with short sermons. If one didn't preach an hour and a half we felt cheated. And what they lacked in education they more than made

up for in religious fervor, although I never heard one of them use slang in his sermons or talk to God as if he were talking to some boon companion on the street corner. A large proportion of my neighbors were old soldiers—although they were not old then. When we got together our chief entertainment was in fighting our battles over again and telling how much better our respective regiments and brigades were than any others.

We took our politics very seriously for twenty years or more. I for several years was about the only democrat in our neighborhood, and at times I felt that I was being ostracized on account of it. But when trouble came, or help was needed, we forgot political differences. I joined the Alliance movement in the late '80s, and many of my republican neighbors did likewise. After that our political differences were slight, and today York County is not nearly so one-sided as it was twenty-five years ago. During the uncertain days following the election in 1876 I could have got into a fight almost any time I went to town. A lot of my republican friends could not understand how I, an ex-soldier, could be a democrat and a Tilden man.

The first democratic county convention we held in York County was a mighty slim affair. We could hardly muster up enough democrats to fill a county ticket, and our republican friends guyed us unmercifully. But what we lacked in numbers we made up in enthusiasm, and we stuck to it.

In 1884 we celebrated the election of Cleveland, and the republicans didn't do any guying that night. They felt as blue as we felt good, and they acted like men who believed that the world was about to come to an end.

We had real Fourth of July celebrations in those days. We heard some real orators and we had picnic dinners together. I sometimes think that we have forgotten how to celebrate that anniversary.

I am now approaching my seventy-second year, and God has been good to me and mine. I still own my original homestead and the quarter next to it, but the farm doesn't look much like it did forty years ago. Neither do I. My time is approaching, I know, but I expect to live in Nebraska until the end comes. Wife and I have traveled all over the United States during the last twelve or fifteen years, but as yet we have not found a state we like as well as we like Nebraska, nor a county that can come anywhere near approaching good old York. Our greatest pleasure is sitting on our front porch on pleasant evenings, with our children and grandchildren around us, and telling over and over again the story of our pioneer experiences. I reckon I've fought my army battles over a thousand times for the little folk. We have a right to be proud of what we of York County have done. We found it a barren wilderness, and today it is about as near Paradise as man can make a country.

* * *

After the reunion I accepted an invitation to spend the night at the home of this splendid old pioneer and his wife. The home would grace any city in the land. It was modern in every respect—furnace, hot and cold water, gas light. It was filled with books. The huge barn was well lighted and as convenient as a pocket in a shirt. On every side were well tilled fields, huge stacks of grain, fat cattle and sleek horses. A quarter of a mile away was the little cottage of the hired man and his wife, and the hired man seemed to be taking as much interest in

things as his employer. In the morning the pioneer took me back to York in his big seven-passenger automobile, and my last recollection of the beautiful farm home was that of a pleasant faced little grandmother standing on the front porch and waving us a farewell.

Our journey lay past splendid farms teeming with crops, and on every side were evidences of abundant prosperity. I looked at the ruddy faced and grayhaired old gentleman at the steering wheel, and wondered at the magnificent work that he and his neighbors had wrought in the short span of less than half a century. My newspaper work has called me to many states, and I have been permitted to study and investigate in many different sections of the country. And every time I take a trip out into interior Nebraska I am more than ever convinced that there is not another state in the Union that can compare with it in fertility, productivity and citizenship. A mighty sturdy lot of men and women were those who crossed the Missouri River in the days when the land was new and braving the hardships of the frontier wrested prosperity from the soil. And I rejoice every time I am privileged to meet one of those old pioneers who struggled through those early days and has at last reached the safe harbor of rest and plenty.

THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS IN YORK

Many of York County's old pioneers are old only in the sense that they were among the first to settle in the county. Many of these "old settlers" are yet to be numbered among the young. We no longer count a man old at sixty; on the other hand we deem him to be in the zenith of his power. So, while we are talking about pioneer Christmas days do not be seized with the idea that the men mentioned in this article published in 1918 are all old men. They are not. They came while young to a land that was young.

"E. A. Gilbert's first Christmas in York County was that of 1884. He arrived in York several months before, straight from Carlinville, Macoupin County, Ill. "I came at the earnest solicitation of the late George Woods," said Mr. Gilbert. "He had been here several years, and he had always shown an interest in me. It took me several years to make up my mind to make the plunge, but finally I made it. I have never regretted the move, either. Our first Christmas was not marked by any especial incident that impresses it upon my memory. I guess we had the usual Christmas dinner, and of course our three children hung up their stockings and found therein the usual assortment of nuts and candy. York was already a thriving little city of about fifteen hundred or two thousand people, and had passed the 'pioneer stage.'"

O. S. Gilmore, county attorney, does not remember anything about his first Christmas in York County. It was in 1878. His inability to recall any of the incidents of that first Christmas is not due to lack of memory. He was born in York County in that year. Some of these days he may be president, too, for he was born in a log house. His father was one of the first settlers. Perhaps one other man came ahead of him. But as they came together and county boundary lines were very faint, neither could recall which crossed into the county first.

C. A. McCloud's first Christmas in York County was spent in Waco, and that was in 1878. He had worked on a farm during the previous summer, but that winter he was working in a hardware emporium at Waco. It was called an

"emporium" because the stock would invoice about four hundred dollars. The owner of the store had a peculiar system of keeping books. After every name thereon he would write some descriptive phrase, such as "dead beat," "d—n slow pay," "no good," etc. He was absent one day when a man came in and asked Charley to look up his account. Charley spread the book out and finally found the name. After it was the description, "d—n slow pay." And the customer saw it first. "I can still hear the yell that man let out, and I'll never forget the burning remarks he made," said Charley. "But I don't remember anything particular about that Christmas. I guess we pitched horseshoes or went out chasing jack-rabbits. That was about all the amusements we had in those days."

George W. Shreck's first Christmas in York County was spent at Waco in 1878. He had arrived from Indiana a few months before and opened a blacksmith shop. He admits that he was then a typical Hoosier, and about all he remembers of that particular Christmas is that he was all-fired lonesome, and filled with longing for a sight of the folks back in that dear ol' Indeaney.

Dennis Meehan's first Christmas in York County was that of 1888. He remembers it quite well. "I spent most of the day writing to a girl back in Breeds, Ill., in which I tried to ask her if she would come out to York with me if I went back after her. It wasn't a very long letter, but it took me a long time to write it. It was a pretty lonesome day for me, but when I got her reply I marked that date as a mighty happy one. I went back after her a year later, and every day since I got her has been even happier than the day on which I received the reply to my Christmas letter."

James Kildow's first Christmas in York County was that of 1885. He had come from Wisconsin a few months before. He "lit" at Lushton, but on Christmas day he came to York, the metropolis, to spend the day. "I remember that it was a very warm day, and I drove over from Lushton in my shirt sleeves. It had been an unusually mild winter up to that date, and I thought I had struck the finest climate in the world. And I am rather fond of it yet, by the way. That particular Christmas day was uneventful. All my Christmas days have been of that sort, however."

E. B. Woods' first Christmas in York was that of 1878. He and his brother had come on ahead of their father, who was headed for York to engage in the clothing business. "I have no particular recollection of anything unusual that happened on that Christmas," said Mr. Woods. "There were only three amusements for us young fellows in those days—chasing jackrabbits, racing horses and playing penny ante. I never did like to chase jackrabbits and we didn't have any horse races on Christmas."

Charles A. Gilbert's first Christmas in York County was that of 1892. He came up from Kansas City, where he had spent a couple of years in the practice of law, and entered into a partnership with his brother, E. A. Gilbert. "I don't remember anything unusual about that first Christmas in York County," said Mr. Gilbert. "I guess it was very much like all that have followed. We had plenty to eat, my wife and I, and we exchanged presents and spent the day very quietly with relatives."

F. A. Hannis' first Christmas in York County was in 1886. He came here from Chicago. "It was a pretty lonesome Christmas for me," said Mr. Hannis. "I was only a boy, and it was the first time I had been away from home. To me

the West was even at that late day a 'wild and woolly' section. I boarded with relatives after I came here, so it was not quite so lonesome as it might have been. But I believe it was the most dreary Christmas in my life."

Joseph Hoover of Benedict is an old-timer in York County. He came here in the summer of 1875, and that fall began teaching school in the southeast corner of the county. "My first Christmas in Nebraska was uneventful. It was the year after the grasshopper raids and we were much poorer than Job's turkey, which had to lean up against the fence to gobble. My salary as teacher was small to the vanishing point, but every dollar was bigger'n a wagonwheel. We did not have any Christmas feasts that year. The only thing we spent was the day."

A. G. Johnson is an old-timer in Nebraska but a comparatively newcomer in York County. He arrived in York in 1901. "My first Christmas in York was about like all of them before and since. I spent the day as usual with my family, where I have always had my best times."

Ed S. Felton came over from Iowa and located in York County in 1891. "My first Christmas in York County was spent in Bradshaw, mostly behind the counter and prescription case of the local drug store. I guess we had a big Christmas dinner but I don't remember any of the particulars."

Russell Williams' first Christmas in York County was that of 1893. His memory of it is very dim, however. He arrived in York County the previous July, and had never lived anywhere else before. "I guess I spent it dairying," mused Russ.

County Judge Hopkins left that dear old Lucas County, Ia., in 1887 and lit in York County in 1887. Benedict was his first landing place. "I taught school there that winter and spent my first York County Christmas at Benedict. We had a jolly bunch of young folks there. The town was new, and we had some merry times. There was nothing particular to set that Christmas apart from many others, but we certainly did have a good time."

W. L. Kirkpatrick landed in York in 1895, coming here from Tennessee, although he is an Illinoisan by birth. "My first Christmas in York was a happy one. I boarded at a home filled with jolly young people and we made merry all the time. On this particular Christmas we had a dance. But the dinner—say, I'll never forget it. We young folks made a day of it, I tell you."

Wade H. Read came to York County in 1883. He has no recollection of his coming, nor of his first Christmas in the county. He was born in a sod house up on Lincoln Creek. So far as he knows he spent that first Christmas like most babies of the same age. The first Christmas he remembers was to him an unusually happy one, for after a separation of many months he was again with his mother. It was spent at the farm home of Mr. Houston, and Mr. Read remembers the good dinner, the happy play and the delight of being again in the arms of one from whom he had long been separated. "We didn't spend our Christmas days then like we do now," observed Mr. Read, "but after all I think we really enjoyed the old kind most."

Joshua Cox brought his young bride from Illinois to Hamilton County in 1879. He bought a quarter section of Hamilton County land for \$7 an acre and proceeded to make a home with the help of his good wife. "Our first Christmas in Nebraska was a happy one," said Mr. Cox with a reminiscient smile. "We were building a home of our own, and the joy of ultimate possession was ours. There was a sod house on the place, but we built a granary 18x20 and lived in that. We didn't have much that first Christmas, but we had a plenty. We have never been any happier

than we were during those pioneer days, although we have always been happy. We came to York County in 1899, but I couldn't tell you of any particular incident that set out the Christmas of that year. It was like most of them that have come during the last quarter of a century."

W. G. Boyer never came to York County. He was brought. It happened in the year 1871, when his parents bundled him and other possessions up and headed westward from Illinois. "I was only a year old then," remarked Mr. Boyer, "and I do not remember anything about my first Christmas in York County. I only know from hearsay that it was spent on a homestead nine miles northwest of the present good city of York, and I have spent most of my Christmas days right here in York, and I hope to spend a hundred or two more of them in the same place."

C. N. Carpenter really landed in York in 1881, but he didn't land to stay until 1883. In the meantime he attended the University of Nebraska and graduated in a class that numbered many notables in addition to himself. One of the number was Charley Magoon. When he came to York he conducted his father's lumber yard for a couple of years, then had it thrust upon him for his very own. "I do not recall any remarkable incident about my first Christmas in York," remarked "Karp." "I guess we spent it joyously in or about the old 'New York Store' in North York. That was the big trading center in the old days. And we had a pretty lively bunch that made headquarters there, too. While I do not remember that particular Christmas day I am pretty certain I had a good time."

Jeff B. Foster came to York County from Illinois in 1883, and located on a farm east of Benedict. "I do not recall anything particular about my first Christmas in the county," said Mr. Foster. "I was married the spring before and my wife and I were trying to build a home 'way out here on the prairies. I guess we were too busy working on that home to give much time to celebrating Christmas. If I wasn't happy that day it was the only Christmas I can remember when I wasn't happy. What's the use of being any other way, Christmas day or any other day?"

CHAPTER IV

SETTLEMENT BY TOWNSHIPS

YORK PRECINCT—WEST BLUE PRECINCT—BEAVER CREEK PRECINCT—BAKER PRECINCT—NORTH BLUE PRECINCT—HENDERSON PRECINCT—DAVID HENDERSON—STEWART PRECINCT—GRESHAM (H. C. LANPHERE)—WOODRUFF PRECINCT—HOUSTON PRECINCT—LEE MORTON.

YORK PRECINCT

York Precinct occupies the geographical center of the county and lies in the valley of Beaver Creek. On the 3rd of August, 1864, David Baker pitched his tent on the banks of Beaver Creek, under the spreading branches of a friendly old elm that stood on section 10, township 10, range 3. Mr. Baker and his family made this their home for a period of three months, during which he erected the first frame house in the precinct, hauling the lumber from Nebraska City. His settlement is the first it is our pleasure to record. The next settlers who arrived, were Isaac Crable and Ex-Sheriff J. P. Miller. Isaac Baker and Bates took up claims on section 8, Sheriff Miller on section 12, Thomas Myers on section 2. In 1870 a large number of settlers came into the precinct and nearly all of the valuable claims were taken up, and before the close of 1871 all the government land was exhausted. Among the first who came in 1870, Lorenzo D. Brakeman, F. M. Connelly and D. A. Ritner made settlements on section 4, township 10, range 2; Charles F. Day and A. J. Day on section 18, Nathan Johnson on section 20, Thomas Porter, section 24, and David Graham and J. S. Shaw also on section 24; H. M. Detrick and J. W. Andrews on section 30, and R. C. Shipman and John Murphy on section 10.

WEST BLUE PRECINCT

West Blue Precinct is situated in the southeast corner of the county, and derives its name from the West Blue River that courses through it. The general character of the surface is that of a gently rolling valley except the uplands, or "divides," which are somewhat rolling.

John Anderson and his son William Anderson, the first settlers of this precinct, are honored as the pioneers and first settlers of York County. They took up the first claims under the homestead act made in the county, on section 2, township 9, range 1, and plowed the first furrows. Their settlement dates back to the year 1865, in the month of February.

Three months later, in May, George Stubblefield made the third settlement in the county, on section 3, adjoining the one taken up by the Andersons. The follow-

ing December three other settlers arrived, and their settlements include all that were made during this year. These came in the person of Henry Chatterton, who located on section 8, Mill Sophonisba Fouse on section 9, and Nerva Fouse on section 10. Early in the month of January, 1866, they were followed by Wm. Taylor, who established his farm on section 8; Elias Gilmore, locating on section 7, and Jackson Gilmore, on section 12.

When the spring of 1866 opened up it found David Bussard settled on section 10, Levi Deems on section 12, and during the summer Christian Holoch also settled on section 12, Albert Deems on section 10, and Nicholas Noigh on the same section. Two years later, in the fall of 1868, W. H. Armstrong and George Vance arrived and were followed in 1869 by Wm. Hathaway and Reuben Manning.

In April, 1869, Rev. William Worley preached the first sermon ever listened to by the pioneers of York County, at the residence of John Anderson, and during the following months organized the first class of the M. E. Church at the Bussard school house. In 1870 the West Blue Mission was formed and Rev. Mr. Oliver was appointed to the charge.

In the winter of 1869-70 Elias Gilmore erected the first frame house in the precinct, hauling the lumber from Nebraska City. All of the settlements mentioned were made on the Blue among the timber groves that fringed its banks. And a further settlement of the precinct did not occur until the emigration of 1870 came pouring into the county.

In the spring of 1870 George Hannah, V. Shelley, and John Wallace took up claims on section 12 and began tilling the soil. In November, Mrs. L. Parsons, Elmer Parsons, and A. H. Chesebro made the first settlement on Lincoln Creek, all locating on section 26. In 1871 and 1872 the precinct settled up very rapidly and nearly all the government land was taken up. Among the first settlers in this general emigration are P. L. Rubattal, section 34, Isaiah Smith, section 28, Calvin Smith, section 32 and Anthony Smith, section 28.

In the winter of 1865-66, at the time Uncle Elias Gilmore took up his claim, nine hundred Pawnee Indians were camped on the Blue, engaged in hunting. Mr. Gilmore harvested the first wheat raised in York County in 1867, and the total crop throughout the county for 1868 amounted to five hundred bushels.

Miss Lizzie May, daughter of A. J. Gilmore, has the honor of being the first white child born in the precinct and also in York County, the date being January 1866. The first marriage ceremony occurred at the residence of Uncle Elias Gilmore. February 14, 1867. Daniel Millspaugh, a justice of the peace for Seward County, tied the knot, and the contracting parties were Mr. N. J. Dixon and Miss Lydia Gilmore.

The first death that occurred in the county among the settlers was that of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Dixon in the winter of 1867 and 1868.

The first school district organization effected in the county took place in this precinct in 1869. William Taylor was elected moderator, A. J. Gilmore, director, and John Meagher, treasurer. This was district No. 1, and is known as the Bussards District. A sod school house was erected in the fall of this year on section 8 and the following spring school was opened with Miss Lizzie Lowery as teacher. These were the introductory steps of the present efficient school system of the county.

The settlers are liberal in their praise of Miss Lowery's early work and honor her as the pioneer teacher of the county.

UNITED BRETHREN

The organization of this church took place in the winter of 1868 and 1869 at the house of David Bussard. The original members of the society are Mr. and Mrs. David Bussard, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gilmore, William Bussard, and Kate Bussard. The first meetings were held at the "dug outs" and sod houses of the settlers. When the Bussard school house was completed it was used as a house of worship as well as a school. The society met in the school house until the church was completed, in April, 1879, at which date the dedication services took place. Rev. Simeon Austin was called as pastor in the spring of 1871 and remained two years. Rev. N. P. Spafford succeeded him in 1874 and officiated for one year. Rev. E. F. Austin was called as the successor of Mr. Spafford in the spring of 1875 and presided over the church until the spring of 1878. After Mr. Austin closed his labors the present pastor, Rev. E. W. Johnson, took charge. The present board of trustees are Christian Holoch, Charles Wullbrandt, A. J. Gilmore and P. Heller.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

West Blue Mission was established in April, 1869. The first services were held at the residence of John Anderson by Rev. William Worley, one of the first missionaries of the South Platte country. The West Blue class was the first organized in the county, which took place during the following month of May. The West Blue Circuit was established in the spring of 1881 and Rev. Mr. Oliver was appointed to this field. The Bussard school is used as a house of worship and a supply regularly furnished to the society.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church Society was organized by Rev. Kelso in February, 1873. Rev. Mr. Brittell, the first pastor, was called in the summer of 1873 and his labors cover a period of two years. His resignation took effect during the fall of 1875, after which date to 1882 the pulpit was supplied.

BEAVER CREEK PRECINCT

Beaver Creek Precinct is situated in the centre of the eastern tier of precincts, and is well watered by the creek that courses its way through a gentle valley from which it receives its name. The surface is somewhat crossed by "draws," and the soil here is considered as ranking with that of any portion of the county, in depth and richness. In the spring of 1868 the first settlers found their way into the precinct and established themselves on the banks of the creek, among the many timber groves that fringed its banks. Julius Frost settled on section 28, U. L. Nichols and R. Clark upon the same section, John Corey and T. Godding on section 26, Charles Le Count on section 24, and William Zweig on section 8; all in township 10, range 1 west. The following spring of 1869 William Gocke took up his homestead on section 34, and Jared Gocke on section 32, and made the first settlements on the "divide." In 1870 a large number of settlers arrived. Among the first were Henry Cesheler and George and Robert Bray, who located on section 24; John Widle on section 32;

Christian Bristol, Henry Gocke and Henry Wellman, on section 22; Detricht Naber and F. Hoffschneider on section 26; and the following spring, of 1871, they were followed by a host of others, who soon took up all the government land. The first school district was formed in 1869. The first schoolhouse consisted of a dugout built in the banks of a draw, and was furnished with one wooden bench, and a rough pine desk for the teacher. The first school was taught by Frank Manning.

The first church organization in the precinct took place in 1871, under the auspices of the German Methodist Episcopal Church. The initiatory services were held at the house of Henry Gocke under the leadership of Rev. C. Herman, who became the first pastor, officiating until the year 1874. His successor was the Rev. Charles Ott, in the spring of 1875, who remained in charge until 1878. Rev. Mr. Bruns was the next pastor, commencing his labors in the spring of 1878, which closed after a period of two years. The next pastor, Rev. Mr. Behrns, took charge in 1881. The organizing members were: Detricht Naber, C. Dwehous, H. C. Kleinschmidt, John Widle and John Brahmstedt. Regular services were held at the houses of the members and at the school house until the year 1874, at which date the present church building was erected. The society is now in a prosperous condition and one of the strongest in the county.

The organization of the German Lutheran Church took place at the school house in district No. 6, in September, 1873, with the Rev. Theodore Gruber in attendance. Henry Gocke, A. Bulgrin and G. Tieken were elected deacons, and H. Burhopp church clerk. The first resident pastor of the society was Rev. G. Endrs, who commenced his labors in the fall of 1878. The first church erected was a sod building, dedicated in the winter of 1875-76. Services were conducted here until the fall of 1880, at which date the present building was completed and dedicated. It is a fine frame structure and was valued at \$2,000.

Waco was the outgrowth of the railroad, and sprang up as a market town upon the advent of the railroad. In 1877 Thomas C. Tagg commenced buying grain here and shipped the first car load in 1877, upon completion of the railroad to York. The first house erected was a small frame structure, afterwards used as a kitchen, by J. W. Strickler one of the business men of Waco. Nelson Creech and J. W. Armstrong were early upon the scene and engaged in merchandising. A public school building was erected at a cost of \$1,600. The Protestant Methodist, the Methodist Episcopal and Christian Church societies soon had permanent organizations effected at the establishment and laying out of the town.

BAKER PRECINCT

Baker Precinct is situated midway on the western tier of precincts. The general formation of the surface is a gentle undulating prairie, well watered by Beaver Creek, which flows through the center east and west, and Lincoln Creek on the northern edge. The "Old Trail" passed through the southern portion on the divide south of Beaver Creek, winding its way as nature provided its roadbed.

At the point known as Porcupine Bluffs, near the line of Hamilton County, it is believed by the writer the first dwelling of the white man in York County was erected.

Benjamin F. Lushbaugh, U. S. Indian Agent of the Pawnees and proprietor of the Nebraska Overland Stage Company, established Porcupine Ranch at the Bluffs

in the fall of 1863. It was also a relay station of the stage company, being the next west of Fouse's ranch, on the west line of Seward County, making a "run" of twenty-seven miles. It was kept by Samuel Reaney and operated by him until the Old Trail and stage coach gave place and were superseded by the Union Pacific Railway.

The first permanent settlement was made by Thomas Bassett and S. P. Buckmaster in December, 1869, Bassett taking a homestead claim on section 10 and Buckmaster on section 6, township 10, range 3. They settled in the timber groves that skirted the Beaver. Bassett built a small dugout and turned the first furrows in breaking on his claim that were made by the plow in the territory now included in Baker Precinct. Marion Shackelford came next, arriving upon his homestead in March, 1870, taking his claim on section 4. He immediately commenced work building a dugout for himself and family, but before it was completed a severe snow storm set in that lasted nearly twenty four hours, so severe that they almost perished from cold. Mr. Shackelford succeeded in forcing his way to the residence of David Baker and in company with him returned to Mrs. Shackelford and the children, whom they found in bed covered by a huge snow drift, and removed them to Mr. Baker's house, where they were cared for.

The following June marks the date of settlement of Anthony Heitz, the next settler, who took up his claim on section 10. Mr. Heitz also settled on the creek and obtained his living and money to pay for his homestead claim by trapping the beaver and mink on Beaver Creek.

During the closing months of 1870 quite a number of claims were taken up. Among the first were those of Mrs. Sarah Buckmaster and T. H. Buckmaster, section 6, on Beaver Creek. In the north part Henry Benson settled on section 30, township 11, range 3; in the northeast corner W. K. Atkinson on section 20; in the western part Price Raymond on section 8; Alva Meisner, section 6; Abner Stout, section 10; C. M. Johnson, section 10; Martin Funk, section 14, township 10, range 4; in the south part A. F. Monger, section 23, and the following spring, 1871, A. W. Wellman, section 24, Richard Mutton, Gustavus Faustman, W. A. Thomas, C. A. Siran, all on section 24.

During the years of 1871-72 a large immigration came into the precinct and the sod houses and dugouts could be found scattered all over the upland.

Baker Precinct originally included North Blue and Henderson precincts, and was named in honor of David Baker, the pioneer of York Precinct. Stephen P. Buckmaster was appointed the first justice of the peace in January, 1870. J. W. Buckmaster made the first assessment after the creation of Henderson and North Blue precincts.

The first post-office was established in the winter of 1870-71, under the name of Aikins Mills, and was kept at the house of C. Aikins, who received the appointment of postmaster.

Miss Annie Bassett, daughter of Thomas Bassett, was the first child born in the precinct, the date being December, 1869.

Stephen P. Buckmaster built the first frame house in December, 1869, which was blown down during the following winter. The organization of the first school district, district No. 13, was effected in the spring of 1871. Thomas Bassett was chosen director, Marion Shackelford, moderator, and Stephen P. Buckmaster, treasurer. The first school house erected was a sod building, situated on section 8, near the

residence of B. C. Deitrick. School was opened in May, with Alice Babcock as teacher.

The first marriage that took place occurred at the house of Postmaster Chauncey Aikins, in the summer of 1871; the happy participants were Isaac Mullen and Miss S. Aikins, and Justice Buckmaster tied the knot, which was his first official act after receiving his appointment.

NORTH BLUE PRECINCT

North Blue Precinct is situated in the northwest corner of the county. The north fork of the Blue courses through the precinct, and other minor streams furnish abundant facilities for obtaining pure water. J. W. Kingston is honored as the first settler in the precinct. He arrived in the spring of 1870 and took up a homestead claim on section 8, township 12, range 4. Along the banks of the Blue a few weeks later he was joined by Samuel Cline and Philander Church, who located on the same section. During the summer of 1871 Jordan Denny and V. Dich settled on section 4, and A. C. Eberhart on section 8. In the spring of 1871 the south part of the precinct was settled. R. M. Lytle, John Lett, A. M. Draucker and William Cross arrived at the same time, and each took up a claim on section 32. About the same time George Myers and Thomas Mitchell took up their claims on section 2, G. W. Bowers and A. J. Bowers on section 8, Albert and Edward Eastman on section 6, and Riley Myers and James Eads on section 2. In 1872 a large immigration of settlers came into the precinct and took up all the government land. The first school district was organized in the south part of the precinct during the summer of 1872. Robert Lytle was elected director, A. M. Draucker moderator, and William Cross, treasurer. During the summer of 1873 the first school was taught, a three months' term, by Miss Carrie Lorence, at the house of William Cross. Arborville was laid out as a town in 1874 by C. S. Harrison. It contained one general merchandise store, a blacksmith shop and post-office. The Methodist Episcopal Society organized in 1872. The Congregational Church at Arborville was organized in 1873, at the residence of W. S. Hill, by the Rev. Mr. Harmon, who became the first pastor. Services were held in the school house up to the year 1879, at which time the church building was completed. The society of Presbyterian Church was organized April 23, 1874, by the Rev. Mr. Robinson, synodical missionary, assisted by the Rev. T. K. Hedges. William Greer and John Lett were elected elders and Mr. Hedges was called as pastor. His labors covered a period of one year and were continued by Rev. Mr. Powell for two years. From 1877 until 1880 the church was without a pastor. Rev. B. F. Sharpe was called in 1880. The United Brethren organized their society in 1875 and erected a church building in 1877. Samuel Cline built the first frame house in the precinct in 1872.

HENDERSON PRECINCT

Henderson Precinct lies in the rich and fertile valley of the Blue River, in the southwest corner of the county. It receives its name from David Henderson, who in company with his son John Henderson, Randolph Fairbank and Daniel George made the first settlements on the Blue River, July 2, 1866. David Henderson settled on section 20 and the others on section 38. In 1867 but two settlers arrived.

Alexander Lowry located on section 28 and Charles White on section 30. The spring of 1868 brought Edward Copsey and Thomas M. Bearse, who established themselves on section 28, and in November, 1869, Rollen Sheppard settled on the same section, purchasing the claim of Alexander Lowry. In the spring of 1870 the first claims were taken up on the prairie. Orlando Darling was the first to arrive, locating on section 26, and shortly after was followed by the settlers who took up their claims in this order: John Staller; J. A. Larkins, section 22; Mr. M. Riggs and Mr. McCarty, section 14; E. Higby, William Armstrong, F. Leaming, Martin Suliver and George Allen, section 10; William Consor, section 22; George Russell, George Williams, John Moore, section 18; Henry Fay, N. H. Hopkins, Fred Hemper, James Addis, section 8. In 1872 this precinct settled very rapidly and all the land was taken up.

The first school established was a subscription school held in the summer of 1868 in a log building owned by Edward Copsey, taught by Mrs. Jarvis Chaffee. In the summer of 1869 the school was again opened in the old log building under the instruction of Mrs. Chaffee. From 1870 to the spring of 1876 the residence of Thomas Bearse was utilized for school purposes. On the third of April, 1876, the organization of the district was perfected with the following officials: Daniel George, director; Thomas Bearse, moderator; Randolph Fairbank, treasurer. A frame school building was immediately erected and school opened under public instruction during the ensuing summer. Among the early teachers in this district the names of Miss Nellie Henderson, W. W. Elliott, and O. Darling will be remembered with pleasure by both parent and pupil.

Rev. Mr. Colwell preached the first sermon in Henderson Precinct at the residence of David Henderson in 1868, journeying all the way from Saline County to spread the good news of the gospel, and among the early missionaries who labored in this precinct are the Rev. Mr. Austin and Rev. Henry Spafford. No church organization was perfected until the year 1876. During the fall Rev. William F. Hill organized the Congregational Church society at the school house in district No. 11. The Methodist Episcopal Church also organized its first class about the same time under the instruction of Rev. William Blackwell, and at the Darling school house the United Brethren Church society was organized by Rev. Mr. Austin; at the Ellis school house in the south part of the precinct Rev. Mr. Austin organized a second society of the United Brethren Church. This society erected its church building in 1879.

DAVID HENDERSON

David Henderson, one of the sturdy pioneers of York County, came to Nebraska in the year 1866 in company with his family and located in the extreme southwest part of the county.

Soon the farm was sold and preparations were made for the long journey, he being the most eager to start. Five families were soon on their way, crossing the Missouri River in a ferry boat. The last of June found them camped at West Mills, near Camden for a few days' rest and recreation. Here they spent the first 4th of July in Nebraska. Soon the men of the party made a trip farther west, leaving the freight road and following the Blue River. Here they found well known early settlers who kindly helped them to locate claims where wood and water were plentiful. Nebraska City being the nearest land office, it was necessary to make a return trip

to secure their land. This being accomplished, they resumed their journey, via the Jack Smith and Jack Stone ranches, since made historic. After traveling some distance west of these places they left the freight road and went southwest over trackless prairies. No bridges in sight, fording streams became a pastime. When near the close of a hot day in July, the travelers sighted trees, and soon the camp fire was lighted for the night. "Under our own vine and fig tree."

After this frequent trips were made to Nebraska City and Brownville for the purchase of provisions and stock for the new farm. Soon a hewn log house of no mean proportions was built and by the 5th of December all were comfortably housed. Autumn weather was beautiful as it always is in Nebraska. Strolling bands of Pawnees were frequent visitors in their bright picturesque garb, riding fleet-footed ponies. It made a sight at once novel and interesting. Never harmful or troublesome, they were really missed when they came no more. The following spring began the realities of opening up the soil and planting trees. Civilization began to dawn after the advent of a few more families.

The Rev. Davis, a Baptist minister and old friend from Monticello, Wis., preached the first sermon in the new log house. The latter became a hostelry for all. From far and near came the tide of immigration and all were made welcome if not comfortable. The first school was kept in a small house belonging to E. D. Copsey and was taught by Mrs. Jarvis Chaffee. David Henderson built the first frame school house with a promise of help by the neighbors. Sunday school was held in the houses, people attending from a long distance. Mrs. Henderson, though never quite reconciled to the idea of bringing her family to the frontier, was ever ready to lend her time and talent for the good of the young people. Her hearty greetings and kindly ways enlivened many occasions.

She made firm friends of people in search of new homes and often, as David's teams were the only ones available, they made long pilgrimages with them to locate some new homesteader.

Suffering and hardships were unknown, trials and embarrassments were many. He came quite well equipped for farming; six good horses, money enough to tide him over for a few years. For an example of the high cost of living, Robert and the present Mrs. E. D. Copsey went to Porcupine station for the mail and to bring a fresh supply of groceries. A small store was kept by two brothers by the name of Higgins. They bought a sack of flour which cost nine dollars and a piece of very dark complexioned bacon, which the less sagacious brother said "had been kept on the roof of the sod house," and for which they paid forty cents per pound.

Often such men as F. A. Bidwell, Fred Roper, and Moses Sydenham sojourned with them, partaking of their hospitality—such as it was—and gave a helping hand in organizing her beloved Sunday school. At one time the late H. T. Clarke of Omaha, when passing through the country, gave her the first Sunday school library.

Time changes were rung in and Mr. Henderson in his seventy-third year made a voyage to Melbourne, Australia, to visit a younger brother. This seemed to round out and complete the last years of his life as he had a pleasant voyage and most delightful company. After returning he lived like a patriarch of old, surrounded by his children and grandchildren. But it was not long for either to live. They had the "courage of their convictions." This was indeed a great country which they saw develop beyond their highest expectations.

NELLIE H. YOUNG.

THE FATHER OF HENDERSON TOWNSHIP DECEASED

David Henderson, of Henderson Township, passed away Friday morning, February 14, 1890, of paralysis. The following press account appeared at that time:

He was born on December 27, 1813, in Dundee, on the River Tweed, Scotland. He emigrated from Scotland to Liverpool, Eng., in 1827 and with his wife and three children sailed from Liverpool on the 4th day of July, 1844, for America, locating at Jaynesville, Rock County, Wis. From there he removed to Monroe, Green County, Wis., where he resided until the 16th of May, 1866, when he emigrated by team, with his family of seven children, five girls and two boys, Robert being the youngest boy, to York County, Neb., where he was among the first white settlers in the county, there being none west of where he took his homestead. He was the father of Henderson Precinct, afterwards Henderson Township and was one of the few who helped to organize York County, all getting office save two or three.

Mr. Henderson was a man of very firm resolution. While surrounded by Indians and wild animals, members of his family as well as those who came with him, were anxious to return to Wisconsin, he was never heard to complain or regret his coming. While he was without means as a homesteader, he leaves a large estate to his heirs.

In 1885, at the age of seventy-three years, he took a trip alone, to Australia, to see a brother, spending six months in that country.

The funeral services were held at the residence of the deceased, Sunday, February 16th, by Rev. Geo. Scott, of the M. E. Church of Sutton. The funeral was the largest ever known in this part of the state, the procession being three-quarters of a mile in length, and was attended by friends from Hamilton, Fillmore and Clay counties.

Mr. Henderson was seventy-six years, one month and twenty-seven days old. He leaves a companion at the advanced age of seventy-eight years and seven children to mourn their loss, besides a host of friends and neighbors. All of his children and grandchildren were present with the exception of one grandchild, Mr. Gene D. Wright of California.

This weary head is at rest,
Its achings and thinkings are o'er;
This quiet, immovable breast
Is heav'd by affliction no more.

STEWART PRECINCT

Stewart Precinct lies in the extreme northeast corner of the county. The principal water course of this precinct is Lincoln Creek, which is of sufficient importance to be valuable for water power, which is utilized in turning the wheels of the Thayer flouring mills, situated on section 31, township 12. It is a large three-story frame structure erected by Messrs. Coggle & Harris and is furnished with two run of stone. The precinct derives its name from James H. Stewart, who, in company with David Doan, Newton Hyett and John A. Mercer, made the first settlements in it in the spring of 1868. Doan and Hyett settled on section 26, Stewart on section 22, and Mercer on section 20, township 12, range 1. They

located on Lincoln Creek in the northeast part of the precinct. No further settlement was made until the spring of 1870, at which date D. C. Lucas, N. Elliot, Martin Reetz and Henry Reetz, John Robins, William Jones, D. K. Meritt and George Meritt came into the precinct.

In the spring of 1871 the first settlement was made on the upland by A. H. Rogers, H. M. Logan, D. Fenton, on section 34, and Joseph Brown on section 32.

After this time the "prairie schooners" began to cast their anchors so often that by the close of 1872 all of the government land was taken up.

The first church society was organized in Stewart Precinct in the summer of 1870, under the auspices of the Baptist Church, by the Rev. Mr. Webb, a missionary preacher, and during the fall a class of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. Mr. Comstock. In the spring of 1871 the United Brethren Church society was organized by Rev. B. M. Allen. The several pastors who have presided over this church are: Rev. H. Spafford, 1872; Rev. D. Dulimer, 1873-74; Rev. J. C. Kenniston, 1875-76; Rev. R. A. Bishop, 1877; Rev. H. Loehr, 1878-79; Rev. H. T. Vangorden, 1880; Rev. John Loehr, 1881; Rev. Shupe, 1882. The organization of these societies took place at the residence of Newton Hyett.

The United Brethren Church building was erected in 1874 on the homestead of A. H. Rogers, and previous to this date the society worshiped in a sod church, erected early in the year 1873, on the site of the present church building.

There are also organizations of the Disciple Church and the Church of God. A cemetery was laid out on the northwest corner of section 34 in the spring of 1873. Palo post-office was established in the spring of 1872. A. H. Rogers was appointed the first postmaster.

GRESHAM — *H. C. Lanphere*

In April, 1916, Mr. H. C. Lanphere of Gresham contributed to an anniversary edition of the York Republican, the following word picture of the beginnings in Stewart Township.

"I left Whiteside County, Illinois, in March, 1872, and made the journey to York County in a "prairie schooner," and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 14, Stewart Township. The eye could sweep the entire horizon at that time with scarcely an obstruction except the scraggly timber on Lincoln Creek. It was simply a great expanse of prairie. A dugout provided the family with shelter for several months, when a sod house was completed, which seemed quite palatial indeed. Several years elapsed before a frame house was possible.

"An interesting experience occurred in the month of December, 1872. That was a month of unusually heavy rain. It had been raining for days and one night it was exceedingly cold and dark, with a heavy north wind and bad rain. The little sod shanty had two partitions. The family were resting in peaceful slumber oblivious of the outside inclemency, though awakened some time in the night by the dash of the wind and rain in the face and an unearthly scream from one of the sleepers. Mr. Lanphere hurried to investigate and found the north end of the soddy blown in and the occupants of the bed room were literally buried in the mud. No one was seriously hurt and all lived to laugh at the ludicrous incident. Later they were hauling water in barrels for a mile for both man and beast, as the drought and grasshoppers brought on short crops. Further delights though were in store

when the City of York developed, the Burlington Railroad found its way across the prairie and the York Republican began to come to the home."

WOODRUFF PRECINCT

The footprints of civilization in Woodruff Precinct were made by Fernando McFadden on section 8, township 9, range 2. The second who found his way into the precinct was Levi Woodruff, in whose honor it was named. He located on the section with McFadden in the fall of 1868. The next settlers are William McFadden and Calvin Custer, who arrived in the spring of 1871. They all took up claims on the Blue River in the northern part of the precinct.

The majority of the lands being owned by speculators and the B. & M. Railroad, and a great portion of it lying in the "speculator tract," but little settlement was made until the year 1874.

The first school district was organized in 1879, with the following board of officers: William McFadden, Henry Burgess, directors; Fernando McFadden, moderator; S. C. Clark, treasurer.

Treasurer Clark taught the first term of school the following winter, in the frame schoolhouse erected during the summer. It is known as the McFadden schoolhouse and is situated on section 7.

McFadden post-office was established in July, 1867, with Fernando McFadden as postmaster. There are no church organizations in the precinct, but missionary services are frequently held at the McFadden schoolhouse.

Mrs. Levi Woodruff was a great favorite with the Indians, and her house was their resort in early days. The bond of friendship was so great that they called her "Mother" and treated her with all the kindness and respect of their savage natures. They often camped in the groves of the Blue adjoining her house, on their annual hunts, and came to her for advice and counsel in sickness.

The Red Lion flouring mills are located at Red Lion post-office and were erected in the spring of 1879 by Messrs. C. Seeley & E. O. Wright. The motor power is furnished by the Blue River, which turns two turbine wheels having a force of fifty horse-power. The mill and dam are well built and the situation is one of the best mill sites in the state. The machinery includes four runs of stone and all other apparatus used in the manufacture of flour under the "new process." It will turn out 100 barrels of flour per day, and grinds annually 100,000 bushels of grain. The next proprietor, Mr. E. O. Wright, purchased the interest of Mr. Seeley in the fall of 1881.

HOUSTON PRECINCT

Houston Precinct is situated in the northern tier of precincts. It is watered by Lincoln Creek, one of the more important tributaries of the Blue. Columbus C. Smith is the pioneer settler, who arrived in the spring of 1867 and moored his "prairie schooner" on the banks of Lincoln Creek, on section 8, township 11, range 3. He was a solitary settler for a short time only, for a few weeks later he was joined by Messrs. Johnson and Coon, who took up their claims on the same section. In the spring of 1869 John Farris, Thomas Eades, John Rowsdale and John H. Parker settled on section 10. The first to arrive in 1870 was Andrew

Houston, from whom the precinct receives its name. He made settlement on section 8 and shortly after was followed by Peter Anderson, who located on the same section. D. P. Allen on section 30 and Hon. William H. Keckley on section 20 made the first claims in 1871. During this year the following settlers took up claims in the precinct: R. B. Stevens, section 30; James Dooley and William Moore on section 32; Peter Peterson, Fred Shondoreff and John Keckley on section 6; S. W. Sidwell, section 20; Thomas B. Kohn, S. L. Shiley, S. W. Sidwell, and Henry Hartwell on section 24. In 1872 the general immigration that came into the county took up all the government land that remained.

In 1872 the Rev. George H. Carroll, district missionary of the Board of Home Missions for Western Iowa, organized a Presbyterian Church society in the precinct, which was the first organization perfected. The society has never erected a church building, and its pulpit is supplied by missionary work. The Methodist Episcopal Church organized its first class in the spring of 1874. The first service was held at the pioneer residence of Hon. William H. Keckley. The first members were Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Castle, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Sidwell, Mrs. John Combs and Mrs. R. B. Stevens.

It was organized by Rev. Mr. Streeter, who was called as the first pastor, remaining five months. His successor was the Rev. D. C. Brown, who presided over the church for two years, and was in turn succeeded by Rev. J. Andrus, who was in charge of the church for one year. Rev. G. W. Confer was the next pastor appointed to this work and at the end of the conference year was succeeded by J. A. Larkin. Rev. H. Harmon was appointed in 1880, and was also in charge one year. The next pastor, Rev. Henry Chapin of York, commenced his labors in 1881.

LEE MARTIN

Hon. Lee Martin, one of the prominent farmers of Morton Township, died at his home near Benedict, in May, 1893, at which time the following sketch of his career was published:

"Mr. Martin came to York County in 1872, and has been a very successful farmer and stock raiser and is an ex-member of the Legislature of this state. He has been a sufferer for the past two or three years and has tried the climate of California and the South with the hope of regaining his health, but the insidious disease had undermined his constitution and swept him away at the age of forty-three years. Mr. Martin was universally liked and respected by all who knew him and his friends were to be found in every portion of York County and his death is to be regretted by all, rich or poor; all found a friend in Mr. Martin. His untimely death was a terrible blow to his wife and two children, who mourned the loss of a kind, good and true husband and father. He left his family well provided for in this world's goods, a fine farm of 240 acres and probably \$12,000 to \$14,000 in personal property, but all of this could not replace the father's place in the family circle. The funeral was held on Sunday from the house, and was one of the largest ever held in the county. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen, and his funeral was largely attended by these orders. The funeral was in charge of the Benedict Lodge of the Workmen and the Benedict Camp of the Woodmen acting as escort. York Lodge of the Workmen sent out a delegation of about twenty-five, includ-

ing a number of the Select Knights in uniform, who escorted the funeral procession to this city. York Lodge of the Workmen sent a beautiful floral offering, being the anchor, and the Woodman Camp a shield of flowers as the offering of the Woodmen of this city. At the Orphans' Home the balance of York Lodge of the Workmen and the Woodmen Camp accompanied by the Workmen Lodge and Woodman Camp of McCool, about two hundred strong and escorted the procession to Greenwood Cemetery where the interment was made and conducted by the Benedict Lodge of the Workmen."

CHAPTER V

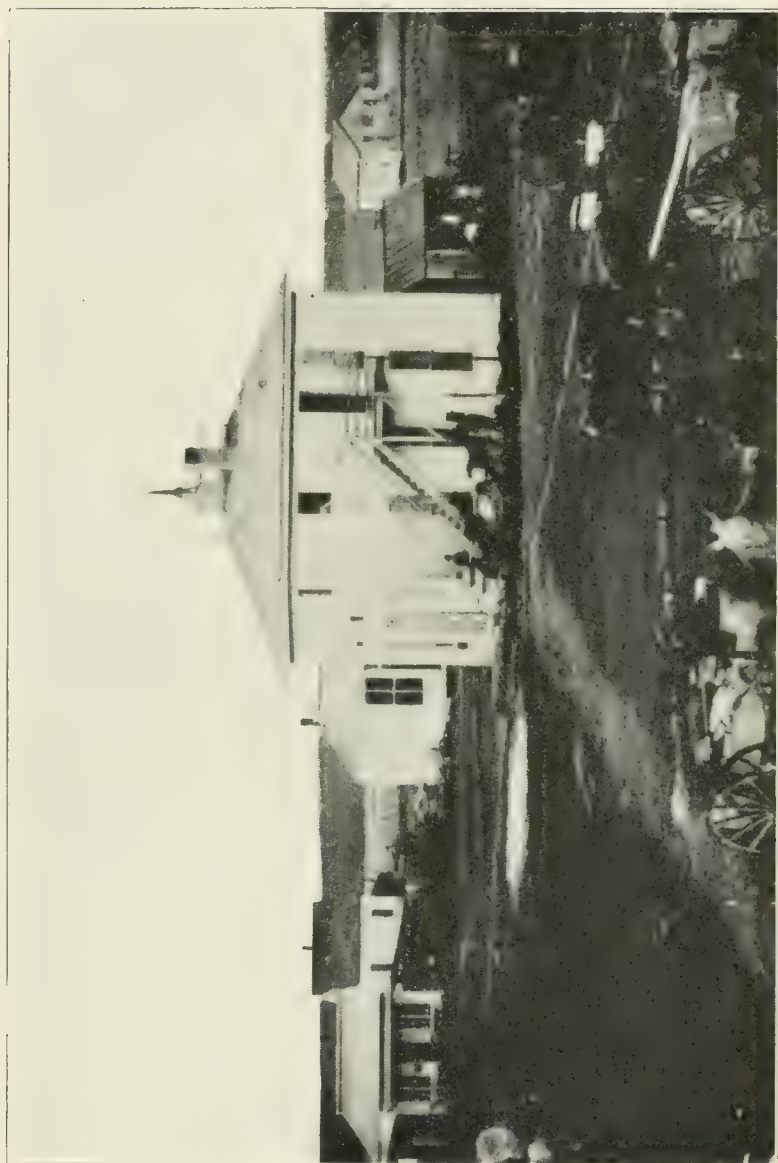
THE CITY OF YORK

EARLY BUILDINGS—INCORPORATION—LIST OF COUNCILMEN AND CITY OFFICERS—
POLICE JUDGES—NEW YORK—EARLY DAYS TEMPERANCE STRUGGLE—THE PUB-
LIC LIBRARY—DEFEATED COMMISSION GOVERNMENT—BAD FIRES—YORK FIRE
DEPARTMENT—PARKS.

EARLY BUILDINGS

The site of York was taken as a pre-emption claim by Messrs. Ghost and Sherwood for the South Platte Land Co., in the spring of 1869. They erected a small frame building which was situated just south of the public square, near the Central Hotel stables. In October, 1869, the city of York was surveyed and platted, and when the spring of 1870 opened it was represented by one sod house and the frame building referred to above. In the fall of 1870 two brothers by the name of Elwood inaugurated the first store in York County in the old pre-emption house, which they maintained until the following spring, when they packed up their little stock and went sadly away, believing with all sincerity that the future city was only a phantom and unworthy to be courted. A few weeks after their premature departure F. O. and J. H. Bell came out from Lincoln with a wagon load of general merchandise and opened the second store where the Elwoods had vacated.

During the summer and fall of this year the city began to develop by the presence of a few frame buildings that were put up. In the summer of 1871 Dr. A. B. Tutton started the first drug store in York County, on the northwest corner of the public square, and during the month of September J. E. Carter built a second store on the west side of the square, stocking it with general merchandise. A short time after, Brahmstadt & Kleinschmidt built their store, and W. A. Reed built the first hotel, which was a part of the present Central Hotel. In November L. J. Gandy opened the first hardware and implement house, and in January, 1872, Charles Le Count offered his services to the citizens of York as a tinsmith. Thomas Gray began pounding iron in a sod blacksmith shop in the fall of 1871, and William H. Gould opened the first wagon shop in the spring of 1872. Some of the buildings erected during this year were the millinery store of Mrs. E. Wilson, Dr. Thomas L. Meyer's drug store, the furniture store of D. A. Stone-cypher and the store of F. M. Connelly, occupied by Wyman & Buckmaster as an implement house. In 1871 F. A. Bidwell was appointed land agent of the B. & M. Railroad and opened his office at York, and in 1872 the courthouse was erected. All of these improvements gave the new city the appearance of



PUBLIC SQUARE, YORK, 1876



active business life and a promise of becoming in the near future a prominent city of the state. The success of its founders led others to cast their lines in it, until it began to acquire a growing fame and demand considerable attention from the outside world. In August, 1877, when the first train of the B. & M. Railroad made its triumphal entry into the city, it found a town of 600 inhabitants to offer it a hearty welcome.

INCORPORATION (LIST OF COUNCILMEN AND CITY OFFICERS)

At a session of the Board of County Commissioners, held September 7, 1875, York was incorporated as a town, and the following board of trustees appointed: Hon. George W. Post, F. A. Bidwell, F. M. Connelly, W. A. Reed. The first meeting of the board took place September 25th. F. M. Connelly was elected chairman and W. T. Scott clerk. The first regular meeting was held December 6th. S. M. Wells received the first appointment as marshal and F. M. Connelly as assessor. The town attorney was instructed to draft suitable ordinances for the government of the town and the maintenance of peace and quiet to its citizens. The election of 1876 brought into office the following gentlemen: Trustees—Charles Le Count, chairman, J. A. Eatherly, J. A. McKillip, treasurer, Edward S. Connelly, clerk, and M. J. Shackelford, marshal.

In 1877 J. P. Miller was chosen chairman of the Board of Trustees, and his colleagues were: W. T. Scott, C. Le Count and A. B. Coddington. J. P. Gandy was appointed marshal, Joseph Massison treasurer and assessor, and C. M. Scott clerk.

On September 5, 1877, York was formally organized as a city of the second class and divided into two wards. W. T. Scott was honored with the mayoralty of the new city; Lee Love and George Butterfield as councilmen of the first ward, and C. Le Count and A. B. Coddington as councilmen of the second ward. The remaining offices were distributed as follows: City clerk, C. M. Scott; city treasurer, D. C. Sayer; city marshal, Charles Penn; police judge, S. M. Wells; engineer, D. C. Evans.

At the election of 1878 all of the city officials were re-elected except City Engineer Evans, who was succeeded by A. B. Coddington. In the council the Messrs. George Butterfield and T. C. Evans were returned from the first ward and Messrs. G. B. France and R. H. Tuttle from the second ward. In the fall of 1878 his honor, Mayor Scott, was called to the higher position of serving the people of York County as member of the State Legislature, and resigned the mayoralty of the city. Mr. France, who had been chosen president of the council, acted as mayor during the balance of the term.

The election of 1879 gave the city the following officials: Mayor, Col. B. Crabb; city clerk, C. M. Scott; city treasurer, W. W. Giffen; city marshal, W. H. Gibbs; city engineer, A. B. Coddington; police judge, S. M. Wells. In the council Jesse Love succeeded George Butterfield in the first ward, and T. D. Knapp came in as the successor of G. B. France in the second ward.

In the spring of 1880 N. V. Harlan was elected mayor, T. E. Sedgwick councilman in the first ward, George Butterfield councilman in the second ward, C. B. Allen, city clerk, W. W. Giffen city treasurer, A. C. Montgomery police judge, and A. B. Coddington city engineer.

In 1881 Messrs. Harlan, Allen, Montgomery and Coddington were re-elected and

E. L. Hatch became city treasurer. T. D. Knapp was re-elected in the second ward, and James McKillip as councilman for the first ward.

In 1882 Thomas F. Stevens became mayor, McKillip and Knapp held over and the new councilmen were E. M. Cheney and D. P. Temple. C. B. Allen continued as city clerk, and Chas. Beck became city treasurer.

The year 1883 brought the return of N. V. Harlan to the mayoralty, and H. Seymour and J. C. Grippen joined Cheney and Temple on the council. A. M. White succeeded Allen as city clerk and Beck remained as treasurer.

In 1884 C. M. Cowan was chosen mayor, and Dr. T. J. Hatfield and M. Sovereign were the new councilmen; J. P. Carnahan became city clerk and Beck continued as treasurer.

The election of 1885 brought W. M. Knapp in as mayor, and D. E. Forristall and F. B. Daggy became members of the council. I. N. Jerome became city clerk.

The year 1886 brought back to the mayor's chair its first occupant, W. T. Scott, and as councilmen H. B. Dibble and J. F. Hale were the new incumbents, and A. G. Ward became city clerk, while J. D. White succeeded Beck as city treasurer.

In 1887 Mayor Scott remained at his post. Forristall was re-elected as councilman and the new member was C. M. Cowan.

A. D. Wyckoff became mayor in 1888, with W. A. Harrison as city clerk, J. D. White as treasurer, and a new council, H. Reader, J. F. Hale, holding over, D. W. Hoyt and A. O. Faulkner.

The year 1889 ushered in a new system, whereby the city council expanded its membership to eight councilmen, two from each of the four wards.

A. J. Newman became mayor, M. M. Wildman clerk, and White remained treasurer. The new council consisted of J. N. Davis, serving with Reader in the first ward; George Hyde and W. L. Morgan, second ward; W. E. Dayton with D. W. Hoyt, holding over, third ward, and C. J. Nobes and N. M. Ferguson, fourth ward.

In 1890 W. K. Williams was chosen as mayor, Wildman remained city clerk and A. S. Harlan became city treasurer. Davis, Morgan, Dayton and Ferguson remained on the council, and the new members were T. E. Bennett, C. J. Nobes, now from the second ward, George F. Corcoran and Carl Zimmerer.

Geo. W. Bemis became mayor in 1891, with Wildman remaining as city clerk and J. D. White returning to the treasurership. New members of the council were, J. B. Frickey vice Nobes; J. O. Steinbach vice Dayton, and J. M. Briley vice Ferguson.

In 1892 W. L. Morgan became mayor, Wildman remained clerk and George S. Cook became city treasurer. In the first ward A. Bissell became Dr. Davis' associate; from the second George R. Read served with Frickey; in the third H. Reader returned to the council as Steinbach's associate, and in the fourth Briley was accompanied by D. Y. Heislar.

In 1893 Councilman Steinbach was elevated to the mayoralty; and the new councilmen were James Collier, J. H. Wood, W. A. Miller and N. M. Ferguson. C. N. Carpenter became clerk and Cook remained as treasurer.

The year 1894 found Steinbach continuing as mayor, with Carpenter and Cook likewise remaining; and as councilmen the same members were retained, four holdovers and four re-elected.

In 1895 B. King became mayor, I. A. Baker was chosen as city clerk and Cook remained as treasurer. The councilmen that year were, N. A. Dean, N. P. Lundeen, Geo. R. Read, E. H. Baker, W. A. Miller, Z. L. Seeley, Carl Zimmerer and D. Y. Heislar. Re-elections and holdovers continued the same set of officers for 1896.

In 1897 W. K. Williams again became mayor; Baker and Cook remained as clerk and treasurer. Lundeen, Baker, Seeley and Heislar held over as councilmen, and the new members were Thomas Barber, George R. Read; re-elected. M. O. Sovereign and N. M. Ferguson returning to the council.

In 1898 B. King became mayor, Newman and Cook remaining as clerk and treasurer; and new members of the council were N. A. Dean, B. Frickey, E. Stache and D. Y. Heislar, re-elected.

In 1899 N. V. Harlan again became mayor; and four new members were chosen for the council, D. Hutchison, George W. Post, S. E. Mansfield and Chas. A. McCloud, and David Thomas succeeding Dean.

The election of 1900 elevated Councilman Charles A. McCloud to the mayor's chair, and his place on the council was taken by James Moist, while the new members were F. P. Van Wickle, S. E. Cain, Frickey and Stache re-elected, and H. S. Harrison succeeding Heislar.

In 1901 McCloud, Newman and Cook remained as mayor, clerk and treasurer; and the only changes in the council were in the fourth ward, where R. R. Copsey and H. M. Childs were chosen.

McCloud, Newman and Cook remained in office in 1902 and Childs succeeded Stache on the council from the third and J. L. Ingrey took his place from the fourth ward.

In 1903 George W. Post became mayor, Newman and Cook remained as clerk and treasurer; VanWickle, Cain, Frickey, Childs, Ingrey and Copsey remained on the council, and Wm. Colton and N. P. Lundeen were the new members.

In 1904 the main officers remained the same, while Thomas W. Smith, Pfeiffer, Hyder and Marshall were the new councilmen.

In 1905 M. Sovereign became mayor, Newman and Cook remained as clerk and treasurer; and the councilmen were VanWickle, Smith, Colton, Pfeiffer, Lundeen, H. W. Brott, B. F. Marshall and J. M. Meradith. In 1906 the same officers served, with J. V. Hyder succeeding Lundeen.

In 1907 William Colton became mayor with a very much changed personnel of administration. That year's council consisted of E. M. Burke, H. M. Detrick, B. R. Simmons, J. P. Pratt, J. M. Meradith, E. Reisinger, G. W. Post, succeeded by M. M. Wildman, and Stryker. In 1908 Colton remained mayor, with Newman and Cook still remaining as clerk and treasurer; and the councilmen were Otto Evans, H. M. Detrick, O. R. Jones, M. M. Wildman, J. P. Pratt, Stryker, B. F. Marshall and J. M. Meradith.

In 1909 Attorney W. L. Kirkpatrick became mayor. During this year the clerk's office was filled successively by Newman, H. F. Requarte and H. G. Hopkins and finally by Albert B. Chatterton, who became city clerk and has held this position for almost twelve years, and is still faithfully fulfilling its duties. The council in 1909 were, S. A. Myers, O. R. Jones, Harry Martin, B. F. Marshall, J. C. McKinley, O. E. Evans, George P. Shidler and J. P. Pratt.

In 1910, Kirkpatrick remained mayor, with Chatterton and Cook as clerk and treasurer, and the councilmen were D. C. Sneller, S. A. Myers, Wm. H. Eagleson, Dr. Shidler, W. R. Furman vice John W. Little, who did not retain the office, J. C. McKinley, E. Reisinger, and Harry Martin.

In 1911 F. P. VanWickle, after long service on the council in past years, became mayor. The new councilmen selected were C. B. Clithero, F. G. Burnham, Andrew Schmelzel, E. B. Nelson and H. C. Kleinschmidt. In 1912 the new councilmen chosen to serve with Mayor VanWickle were W. L. White, C. A. Keefe, and Claude Walker. In 1913 Councilman E. B. Nelson became mayor, and his new council numbered Otto Evans, C. E. Walker, A. M. Read, H. C. Kleinschmidt, A. Schmelzel, C. A. Keefe, W. L. White and George Chilcote.

In 1914 Nelson remained mayor, Councilmen Thompson and C. N. Beaver succeeded Keefe and Walker.

In 1915, William Colton became mayor, Chatterton and Cook still serving as clerk and treasurer. The new councilmen were Evans and Chilcote, re-elected, and W. M. Overstreet and J. C. Peterson, new.

In 1916 the only two new members were H. M. Detrick and G. H. Jerome vice White and Beaver.

In 1917 Thomas W. Smith became mayor, with Chatterton and Cook remaining as clerk and treasurer. The council remained the same, except Struble vice Thompson. In 1918 Smith remained mayor; the new councilmen were J. W. Barnett, Little and Beaver. In 1919 Arthur G. Wray was elected mayor and served until his resignation in September, 1920. The councilmen who served in 1919 and 1920 were W. W. Feaster, C. H. Warner, J. I. Gibbs, A. Schmelzel, J. W. Barnett and J. W. Little, while in 1920 F. N. Recknor and J. M. Meradith succeeded Beaver and Chilcote, who had served in 1919.

In 1919 C. E. Callender took the city treasurership and still retains this office.

POLICE JUDGE

The office of police magistrate is an important factor in the maintenance of law and order and the local enforcement of laws. York has always been an unusually orderly town, but this fact has been largely due to a strict and consistent public sentiment that has practically always backed up the efforts of the local law enforcement officials. The first police judge was S. M. Wells, who served from 1877 until 1880; then A. C. Montgomery assumed this office and filled it until 1885, when T. E. Bennett assumed it for a year. He was succeeded by M. C. Frank, and he in turn in 1888 by J. P. Carnahan. In 1889 A. S. Harlan, and in 1890 George S. Hyde were chosen. M. C. Frank was returned to this office in 1891, and H. H. Bowker succeeded him in 1893. In 1895 Elon Granger assumed four years' service in this task, and in 1899 H. H. Bowker again served for a short time.

In 1900 J. Q. Oviatt took the office and held the same until N. A. Dean became police judge in 1906. Dean's tenure lasted until 1911, when G. A. Warner assumed the police docket. He officiated until in 1915, when G. W. Bemis served for a short time preceding his death, and N. A. Dean returned to the duties, until in January, 1917, H. A. Murphy began service, and he was succeeded in August, 1920, by the present police magistrate, B. A. Ward.

NEW YORK

The advent of the B. & M. Railroad and the location of their depot at York, at a point about thirty rods north of the north end of Lincoln Avenue, and consequently outside of the city limits of York as then established, induced Mr. Woolley, the owner of the land adjoining, to survey and plat a town, which he named in honor of the newness of its arrival and in honor of the great metropolis alike, New York. On March 26, 1880, a petition signed by qualified voters of that vicinity called for the establishment and incorporation of this new town. At an election on April 6, 1880, a set of officers were elected. The members of the board of trustees were E. H. Evans, John Tighe, Charles L. Meissner, James S. Reed and Nathaniel Kennedy, with J. L. Dever as clerk and S. A. Newell as treasurer. Charles Nicolai soon became clerk. In 1881 the board of trustees was comprised of Basil J. Templeton, L. D. Mullany, John Tighe, Chas. L. Meissner and James S. Reed, with Nicolai and Newell still serving as clerk and treasurer. In 1882 the board was comprised of John Ittner, E. N. Evans, F. M. Reymer, Lee Dever and A. R. Allen, with the same clerk and treasurer. The last board of this town was in 1883 and was composed of J. N. Davis, John Ittner, E. H. Evans, George F. Downie and H. B. Seeley. In 1884 this incorporated village passed into the Greater York and no longer possessed a separate corporate history.

THE TEMPERANCE STRUGGLE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF YORK

In the spring of 1876 an application was filed with the city board for a license to open a saloon in the City of York to sell malt, spirituous and vinous liquors. At that time the city board consisted of five members, H. C. Kleinschmidt, J. A. McKillip, J. A. Eatherly, F. J. Greer, and C. LeCount, who was chairman. Three of the board, Kleinschmidt, LeCount and Greer, were for temperance, and two, McKillip and Eatherly, were for saloons. The board was to meet in the evening of the day the petition was filed. That day a son of Mr. Greer's, who was attending school taught by Miss Etta Beecher (afterwards Mrs. Dr. Wm. Knapp), committed a misdemeanor that anyone thought he ought to be nearly killed for, and his teacher gave him a severe whipping. His father, as foolish parents sometimes do, took the boy's part and wanted Mr. Kleinschmidt, who was also a member of the school board, to use his influence to prevent Miss Beecher getting the school for another term. Mr. Kleinschmidt said she was an excellent teacher and had already promised her his support for another term. Mr. Greer flew mad and said he would vote to grant saloon license. The temperance folks hardly knew what to do; the time was too short to get up a remonstrance, but they thought about Mr. Greer practicing medicine. A short time before he had been in the country to visit a sick woman whose husband they saw in town, and they made arrangements with him to give Mr. Greer an urgent call to come and see his wife, who lived a good way out, and paid him the usual fee the doctor would charge. The man who got Dr. Greer to go and see his wife at once went on ahead and had his wife get in bed and she was apparently very sick when the doctor got there. The council adjourned their meeting till the next night and then the temperance folks were on hand with their remonstrance with George B. France as their attorney; Edward Bates was attorney for the whiskey element. Charles LeCount was chairman

and Mr. Greer promptly made a motion that the license be granted to the applicant and the motion was seconded. Counsel for the remonstrators objected to the motion and called attention of chairman LeCount that the motion was out of order, and requested that the motion be not put or acted on, and the chairman sustained the objection and refused to put the motion. The meeting continued in session with more or less wrangling till seven o'clock the next morning, when the ladies brought in an excellent breakfast. Mr. Kleinschmidt and Mr. McKillip agreed to pair off and go home to breakfast neither to return without the other; but Mr. Kleinschmidt was a little suspicious and had his little boy watch and tell him if he saw Mr. McKillip going to the court house; he had no more than got down to the table when the little boy called out, "There goes McKillip, father, on the run to the court house," and up jumped Kleinschmidt and raced to the court house just in time to head him off, so they all ate the nice breakfast furnished by the temperance ladies.

George B. France and John A. Eatherly, a member of the city board, were well acquainted, having resided in the village of Milford, Seward County, Neb., together for five or six years. While there they spent much time and money attending the singing schools of the early days held during the lonely hours of the winter. When the term closed the teacher always gave a concert, and it was understood that the teacher could call on any two to sing any one of the pieces which were learned and sung during the winter. Eatherly and France at one of these concerts were called on to sing and they immediately arose and endeavored to sing the music arranged by the teacher, but made a complete failure.

Mr. Eatherly during this night session of the city board commenced saying rather abusive things about the attorney for the remonstrators, George B. France, and he was headed off in his effort to create a disturbance by Mr. France saying, "John, let us sing." This remark caused good feeling again, and Eatherly proceeded to tell of the incident of the singing school, ending with the remark, "George, what do you want?" France replied, "Adjourn the meeting for two weeks and set the application and remonstrance down for trial as provided by law." This was finally done. The following day Mr. France and F. A. Bidwell drove to Central City and obtained from George W. Post, then judge of the District Court, an injunction restraining the city board from granting a license to the applicant, when the board next met the injunction was served.

The member of the board who changed his views was a druggist and six violations of the liquor law were obtained against him wherein he had illegally sold intoxicating liquors, and he was informed that if he ever voted to grant a license to the applicant he would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. One of those in favor of a saloon met the Rev. C. S. Harrison, who was fighting strong for temperance, and told him that unless a saloon was forthcoming in York they intended burning the houses of the temperance people one by one until such a license was granted. He was informed at once by Mr. Harrison that for every building of a temperance advocate destroyed there would be a building of a saloon advocate destroyed. The man then threatened to flog Mr. Harrison and immediately the coat of the Reverend was off, and the gentleman was cuffed till he was entirely satisfied.

The good people of York were not molested again by the whisky element till after the B. & M. Railroad was built to the city and the depot located north of

the city limits. A Mr. Woolley, who owned the land north of town, conceived the idea of laying out a town just north of York, leaving a strip of land between the two towns which was afterward called "The Dead Line." This was done, and the new town was called New York, the village board was organized and saloon licenses were granted; the temperance people of York organized, raised a fund of \$1,500 to aid in fighting the saloons of the new village, employed detectives, and had the saloon keepers up before the justice of the peace and District Court till life with them was a burden, and their business very unprofitable. While these conditions were going on the saloon men had it in especially for Mr. Creelman, a leader in the antisaloon fight. Mr. Creelman worked, together with Mr. Henry Seymour, in Mr. Chessman's elevator on the railroad in New York. Mr. Creelman was sent to Eatherly's store in the old town for some repairs for the elevator. Two saloon men learned of his trip and decided to follow him and lay him out. They were talking their plans as they passed the elevator and Henry Seymour overheard them and as soon as he could leave the elevator followed them hastily, saw them go in the Eatherly store where Creelman was and rushed in after them. They had knocked Creelman down and were on top mauling him. Seymour grabbed a hickory pick-handle and began beating the saloon men. The hickory club came out first best; the saloon men were glad to get away, and left town for fear of arrest. The saloons soon quit the unprofitable fight and there has never been a saloon near York. Since New York had no other excuse for being a separate town it soon united with and became a part of the city of York; the dead line was surveyed and platted and the fight ended.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY (DATA FURNISHED BY MISS AUGUSTA ITTNER)

Several unsuccessful attempts at founding a Library in York were made prior to the spring of 1885, when the ladies of the I. C. Society (now the Pi Beta Phi fraternity) decided to make the effort. The ladies of the society at that time were Mesdames I. N. Jerome, C. A. McCloud, F. B. Daggy, C. M. Boynton, R. V. Hunter, W. A. Harrison; Misses Vinnie Harrison, Anna Harrison, Rilla and Flora Wyckoff, Mae Baldwin, Maud Chilcote, Nellie Woods, Minnie Freeman and Nell Hackney. The town was canvassed and the sum of one hundred dollars was obtained.

The officers chosen from the ladies of the city to assist the society were Mrs. F. O. Bell, president, Mrs. W. M. Knapp, secretary, and Mrs. C. M. Cowan, treasurer.

The money donated was expended for books, and as there was not enough to pay rent for a room, the offer of Dr. Hatfield of a book case in his office to use as a city library was gladly accepted. The library was open Saturday afternoons and the first afternoon there were thirty books given out. Soon after this A. D. Wyckoff gave the library the use of a room in his building, rent free. This room was afterwards occupied by Mr. Meissner's cloak room. The library filled three cases of books while occupying this room, and when they outgrew this place they moved to a room on the west side of the square, over H. Behling's store, which they occupied until in 1894, when the city council appointed a committee consisting of D. Y. Heislar, H. Reader and Geo. R. Reed to confer with the ladies of the library board as to organizing a free public library. The council for

that year consisted of J. O. Steinbach, mayor; councilmen, D. Y. Heislar, N. M. Ferguson, H. Reader, W. A. Miller, Geo. R. Reed, J. W. Wood, Jos. Collier and A. Bissell.

The council decided that the city needed a library and the library needed the support of the citizens, and thus the York free library was opened to the public in a room in the City Building in February, 1894. In January of that year the York public library was considerably rejuvenated by a donation of 800 volumes from the Pi Beta Phi Society, 200 volumes from the city schools and 147 volumes from the Y. M. C. A.

Three members were chosen from each organization to constitute a board of directors and were as follows: Mrs. C. A. McCloud, Mrs. W. A. Harrison, Mrs. Geo. E. Chilcote, Mrs. W. F. Reynolds, Miss Eunice Coy, E. A. Gilbert, H. R. Corbett, F. A. Hannis and C. J. Wightman.

Mrs. C. A. McCloud has served continuously ever since. The following have been members of the board in the order named: Miss M. A. Hill, B. G. Moulton, J. E. Evans, Dr. D. E. Sedgwick, Mrs. Etta Harrison, Mrs. S. A. Myers, Miss Belle Reynolds, C. C. Cobb, Mrs. C. M. Cowan, Geo. M. Spurlock, J. N. Kildow, Rev. Thomas A. Maxwell, W. L. Kirkpatrick, W. W. Stoner, W. W. Wyckoff, Geo. H. Holdeman, C. C. Boslaw, Miss Augusta Ittner, Mrs. L. P. Owen, Mrs. J. W. Little, Mrs. E. W. Williams, James B. Crable, and Dr. Geo. P. Shidler.

July 1, 1919, according to a law passed by the Legislature of 1919, the entire board retired and a new board of directors with five members was elected by the city council. These members were Mrs. C. A. McCloud, Mrs. W. H. Harrison, Mrs. E. W. Williams, Miss Augusta Ittner and Geo. M. Spurlock. The board is composed of the same members at the present time, with Mrs. C. A. McCloud, president, Geo. M. Spurlock, vice president, Miss Augusta Ittner, secretary.

The faithful librarians have been: Miss Grace Hurlbut, January, 1894, to February, 1904; Miss Estella Detrick, February, 1904, to April, 1913; Miss Lorena Wilson, April, 1913, to October, 1915; Miss Olive Allen, October, 1915, to February, 1918; Miss Ada Haggard, February, 1918, to date. In January, 1901, a bequest of \$10,000 was received from Mrs. Lydia A. B. Woods for Library purposes, of which \$8,000 was to be spent for site and building and \$2,000 for books. With this money the present site was purchased and the building erected and opened for use November 4, 1902.

In 1914 the basement was remodeled and furnished for use at an expense of approximately \$2,000.

Since then the auditorium and small room in the basement have been used constantly by various organizations for meetings and committees.

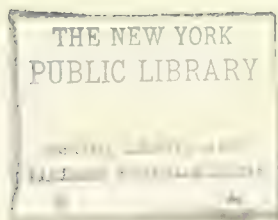
In 1920 the library has been redecorated, new lighting system installed, new shelving placed and floor covered with battleship linoleum. Outside, the walk has been lowered to grade and a new walk and steps put down, shrubbery set out and grass planted. These improvements have cost about two thousand three hundred dollars.

In the library on June 1, 1920, there were 10,412 books, and during the year ending on that date there had been 13,024 visitors to the library.

There has probably been no event in the history of York which caused more universal rejoicing than the news of the totally unexpected gift of Mrs. Woods. The following press tribute to this enterprise appropriately details its progress:



PUBLIC LIBRARY, YORK



The work of erecting the new Woods Library building was begun by securing plans for the building. Of the plans submitted, those of Morrison H. Vail of Dixon and Chicago were decided upon as best for all purposes, particularly as offering promise of cheap administration. Mr. Vail is considered a library architect, having visited three hundred and seventy libraries before planning his first one, and the board felt it could not err in adopting the plans of such an expert.

The furniture and stacks for the building cost \$800. The room in the south-west corner of the building, known as the librarian's room, was beautifully furnished by the City Improvement Society and the clubs of the city are permitted to hold their meetings there. The ladies of the board held a bazaar for the purpose of obtaining funds for the book stacks in which they were aided by the ladies of the city. The amount they realized in cash and from the sale of articles was \$200, and the Fourth of July Committee gave the ladies a nice balance of \$50. The council has granted the full levy allowed by law for the support of the library but it will take it all to pay cost of administration and the future of the library depends on the manner the citizens support the enterprise.

It was said at the opening of the library that this was a woman's enterprise inasmuch as it was started by women, sustained through its first doubtful years by women and at last by the generous thoughtfulness of a good woman was made possible the glorious future of the library of York. But the readers are as many men as women; and in the juvenile department, that part of a library which makes its impress on the growth of a city, there were more boy readers than girls.

Let us hope then that the free use of this beautiful building, made possible to us by the gift of a woman, will inspire some one to liberally endow this good work and thus secure forever to the City of York the need of good that Mrs. Woods had in mind when she gave us the bequest.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

York has stayed by the councilmanic form of city government and in December, 1912, frowned upon a proposed change to the commission form, whereupon one of the papers commented as follows upon this election:

"The commission form of government was so severely frowned on in York yesterday that it will probably take it some time to hold up its head again, in this community at least. The vote cast, 199 for and 392 against, indicates that the measure suffered more from the neglect of its friends than from the persecutions of its enemies, for while a majority of 193 against is decisive enough for any practical purpose, a total of 591 votes is about half the number which may be polled in the city, and indifference as to the outcome of the election is plainly written in the record. The petition went before the people with 301 signers and if these electors were really in favor of the measure it seems that a little hustling would have won the day. However, it may be that some of those who were in favor of submission changed their minds before election day and that others never intended to support the measure, but merely wished to make possible its consideration. Anyway, York will have to wriggle along with a mayor and eight councilmen for a while longer and it is now up to somebody to start something else before life gets too dull in this vicinity.

The vote by wards was as follows:

First Ward: for 76; against 106.

Second Ward: for 44; against 111.

Third Ward: for 51; against 72.

Fourth Ward: for 38; against 103."

BAD FIRES

History is a record of events, usually those somewhat out of the ordinary. Like current news, it will pass by many notable things somewhat usual in their nature, and pounce upon those more unusual. York is a city which has paid faithful attention to its fire department, as will be evidenced in these pages, and has had but few really destructive fires. But detailed accounts, as given in the local press at the time, will be included of some of these few fires.

First, in November, 1887:

The citizens of York were awakened from their slumbers at seven o'clock on Sunday morning by an alarm of fire. The blaze was discovered to be in the billiard hall next to the postoffice owned by Daniel Smick. When the hook and ladder company arrived on the scene and broke open the front doors of the billiard hall the whole interior of the room was found to be a seething mass of flame and entirely beyond the control of any available means at hand to extinguish it. The Lincoln department was at once telegraphed for but did not arrive until eleven o'clock when the Union and Masonic blocks were both in ashes and the fire under control. The Lincoln boys were under command of Chief Newbury and brought with them the steamer T. P. Quick. The water in the cisterns back of Grippen's and Chilcote's was utilized and a stream turned on the raging fire in the basements of the destroyed buildings and what remained of York's greatest conflagration was soon drowned out of existence. The origin of the fire is and will probably remain a mystery. Doctor Farley reports that he was going home between four and half past four on Sunday morning and saw four or five men in the billiard hall with a light and were apparently scuffling about the room. The generally accepted theory is that these men either accidentally dropped a lamp or a lighted cigar or else fired the building purposely. The firemen all agree that the room burned when the doors were burst open as if the floor and walls were saturated with oil. Postmaster Whedon organized a gang of men and proceeded to remove everything from the postoffice and succeeded in getting every piece of mail matter and everything of value out of the building before the fire entered the room. Mr. Whedon deserves great credit for the presence of mind displayed in securing the contents of the office with so little damage. The large crowd fell to work with a will and removed the stocks of Carl Zimmerer, Baer Bros., Vail & Greene, Singer Manufacturing Co., Ewen & Butler, and Coles & Thomas. The goods were piled promiscuously in the square and streets and a considerable amount was carried off. The occupants of the upper rooms removed such of their property as they could. The Masonic hall was broken open and nearly all the valuable carpets, furniture and paraphernalia saved, but the beautiful hall, which was the pride of the Masonic fraternity was doomed to destruction. The York Times office was directly over the billiard hall and was lost, everything being destroyed including subscription lists, files, books and accounts, not a scrap of anything being saved.

The firemen and citizens were as well organized as was possible under the circumstances and fought the fire every inch. The Opera Block appeared to be sure to go with the Masonic hall but after one of the severest fights ever made by a body of men with nothing to work with, was saved. The county officers moved out all the records and all occupants of rooms on the second floor moved out their property. W. K. Williams, Reader Bros. & Co., Ira A. Smith, John S. Gardner and the Citizens State Bank also moved out everything into the street. The Democrat office on the west side of Lincoln Avenue and Bagnell Bros. were prepared for the worst and had moved out nearly everything before the flames were under control. The property destroyed consisted of two of the finest business blocks in the city or in central Nebraska and comprised seven fine store rooms each 100 feet deep. The losses as compiled by the Democrat and received from the losers themselves amount to about \$96,000 and is divided as follows:

LOSS ON BUILDINGS

C. J. Nobes, \$13,000, insurance \$6,000; damage on Opera House \$500, fully insured.

M. D. Einsel, Postoffice Block, \$7,500; insurance \$2,500.

Anton Zimmerer, Union Block, \$10,000; insurance \$5,000.

Hamlin Bros. Masonic Block, \$15,000 insurance \$8,000 and loss on furniture and fixtures \$2,000; no insurance.

STOCKS AND FIXTURES

Carl Zimmerer, general merchandise damage to goods and fixtures moved into the streets and partially burned, \$6,000; insured.

W. K. Williams, clothing damaged by water and removal and goods missing, \$1,500; insured.

Reader Bros. & Co., confectioners, damage to stock and fixtures \$500; insured except \$125 destroyed in postoffice room.

Ira A. Smith, jeweler, damaged, lost and stolen \$300; no insurance.

M. C. Frank, postoffice news stand \$700; insured.

Citizens State Bank, damage to fixtures by removal, \$50; no insurance.

York Times, power press, engine, printing material of all kinds, large stock of paper goods, subscription list, accounts, \$9,000; insurance \$3,200.

W. M. Cowell, law office, \$300; insured.

Masonic Temple, blue lodge, \$1,500; chapter, \$1,000; commandery, \$500, making a total of \$3,000 with a partial insurance.

Baer Bros., furniture and undertakers, loss and damage, \$6,000; insurance, \$3,000.

Coles & Thomas, groceries and queensware, loss and damage, \$4,500; insurance, \$3,500.

Jasper Huffman, real estate and insurance office, \$25; no insurance.

Mrs. R. L. Snodgrass, dressmaker, lost all her furniture, together with models, sewing machine and fixtures of the shop, and nearly all her clothing, \$400; no insurance.

John S. Gardner, billiard hall, damage to tables and fixtures, \$100; no insurance.

Vail & Greene, boots and shoes, loss and damage, \$3,000; fully insured.

Ewen & Butler, dry goods, loss and damage \$7,000; fully insured.

F. L. Whedon, postmaster, loss and damage to postoffice property and fixtures, \$1,200; insurance \$1,000.

Singer Manufacturing Co., loss and damage on sewing machines and stock, \$600; no insurance.

Joseph Keilbert, tailor, \$25, no insurance.

Fritz Garternicht, room furniture, \$25; no insurance.

Nebraska Telephone Co., damage to central office, poles and wires, \$100; no insurance.

Daniel Smick, billiard hall where the fire started, entire loss \$3,000; no insurance.

Mrs. Sarah W. Clark, room furniture and clothing \$100; no insurance.

R. W. Hacker, all his furniture and family clothing, \$300; no insurance.

Sheriff's office, loss and damage to office fixtures, \$50; no insurance.

County judge's office, \$25; no insurance.

The calamity falls very heavy on some of the most public spirited and enterprising men of our city and as such is a loss which affects the entire community and becomes a public disaster. Some of the men who are now nearly ruined have done much to make York the city it is today. This disastrous sequel to the water works agitation is something that the Democrat has held up to the view of the citizens and taxpayers of this city for the last three years. It will be remembered that the Democrat has fought and begged for some kind of fire protection for the past two or three years. If the water works had been in operation, one stream of water would have saved everything on the south side except the billiard hall and that building would not have burned down. The smoldering pile of brick and mortar stands as a monument to the shortsighted, rule or ruin policy of certain men who have been hitherto prominent in city affairs. The lesson which has been learned may last the people of this city a lifetime. The price which was paid on Sunday morning for this costly lesson was large enough to justify leaving an impression never to be forgotten.

Another very destructive fire epoch in York's proud business district was that of February 2 and 4, 1913, described as follows by the press of York:

By far the most disastrous fires which York has seen since the business houses on the south side of the square burned twenty-five years ago occurred Sunday and Tuesday mornings, February 2 and 4, 1913. On Sunday, after a hard fought battle the flames which threatened for a time to destroy all the buildings between Grant Avenue and the alley east, and from Sixth Street north to the city hall, were conquered, but the frame buildings occupied by the C. D. Shreck Co., and the Singer Sewing Machine Company were burned to the ground and the Chas. Baer Building which was the home of the Baer Furniture Company, was left an empty shell, blackened and charred inside, while the Chain Building was seriously damaged. People in the immediate vicinity of the fire are still wondering how they managed to escape and appreciate the fact that they owe their good fortune to the hardest kind of hard work on the part of the fire-fighters.

The alarm was given about half-past three by Dr. George Shidler, who was returning from a professional call and saw the glare of the flames through the windows of the frame buildings. The fire had already made good progress when

discovered and the firemen found the houses in flames when they reached them. It is thought now that the trouble spread to the Baer Building very soon after the adjoining structure broke into flames, the fire finding easy entrance to the furniture store by a door opening on the north, and creeping up the elevator shaft. The inflammable nature of the Baer stock made the progress of the flames rapid and the structure was soon a nest of fire. The rear second floor of the Chain building was used as storage space for furniture. The flames entered the storage rooms and ruined the goods there; burning the contents of the first room and smoking and blistering everything in adjoining apartments.

When the back door of Kleinschmidt's grocery was found to be on fire, Mr. Kleinschmidt decided that it was a wise precaution to remove his stock to a place of comparative safety and within twenty minutes after he arrived at this conclusion the entire contents of the store, even to the pictures on the walls, were piled up across the street, the efficient work of many citizens making the rapid change possible. Such a portion of the Baer stock as it was possible to remove was taken into the street early in the fight with the fire; but the larger part of the furniture was destroyed with the building. Meradith & Wallander removed a part of their goods and office furniture and merchandise were carried out of the Huffman Supply House and the Johnson Post Card and Art Store. No attempt was made to move goods from the office of E. E. Olmstead or the rooms occupied by the New Teller plant, but tenants on the second floor of the same building left their homes taking their possessions with them.

The most spectacular part of the fire was over when the frame buildings fell in and the first burst of flames that came from the roof of the Baer building had been subdued. Then the firemen settled down to grim fighting inside brick walls where the heat was like that of a furnace and every move was hampered by unexpected obstacles. Onlookers who watched breathlessly the attempts to keep the fire from spreading to the roof of the Chain Building did not realize that in the rear of the structure men were struggling in the narrow hallways with the fire monster and that on their success or failure in the struggle lay the fate of the rest of the block, quite as much as on that of their comrades who were working in the open. A broken water faucet in one of the back rooms spurted a steady stream of water for some time and did its little part towards saving the building. It was after seven o'clock before the fire was under control but the water was not turned off the smoldering ruins until hours later. Indeed it was necessary to soak the debris in the furniture store thoroughly again Monday forenoon. The endurance of the firemen was tested to the utmost during the more than three hours of the battle, and there were several narrow escapes from serious injury or death. A. A. Metz found his overcoat on fire once, but a prompt application of cold water from a hose in the hands of a fellow worker gave him something else to think of. A heavy table got away from a man who was trying to rescue it and fell from the balcony in the Baer Building to the first floor. In the fall it gave W. Cline a close shave, a portion of the pedestal tearing open his trousers pocket and knocking a well filled purse into the fire. There were plenty of manifestations of real courage during the fire, but the men who had the best opportunity of witnessing them were so busy being brave themselves that they could not stop to give praise.

The water pressure was about what may be expected in York. Undoubtedly great quantities of water were used, but the force was plainly inadequate. The

origin of the fire is altogether uncertain. When Charles Shreck took possession of the south half of the building in which the fire was first discovered, he put in new wiring in the most approved fashion. He had been in the new location barely three months, so the theory of neglected or defective wiring does not hold good.

The heaviest losers by the conflagration are the Baer Furniture Co. and Mr. Charles Baer. The furniture stock was valued at \$15,000 and the building at \$10,000. Insurance to the amount of \$6,000 was carried on the stock while policies to the amount of \$4,000 stand in favor of the building. Charles Shreck lost his entire stock of electrical fixtures worth \$1,600. He was well insured. The stock of cigars belonging to the York Cigar Store, located in the room adjoining that occupied by the electrical store, was all lost. It was valued at \$1,200. C. B. Crone lost his office fixtures and furniture. Meradith and Wallander, H. C. Kleinschmidt, Huffman and Son and J. M. Johnson suffered small losses from removal and water. The frame buildings were the property of F. C. Power and because of their location have always rented readily.

Tuesday morning at four-thirty, Peter Hesler, who was sleeping in a room adjoining his office at 114 West Sixth Street, was awakened by smoke and found the building on fire. He lost no time in giving the alarm but the mischief was already done and the firemen waged a losing battle for several hours. By sheer hard work the fire was confined to the half block of frame buildings between the alley and Platte Avenue, the Chilcote Building and the structures facing on Lincoln Avenue escaping, though at times it seemed inevitable that the flames would spread. As it was, daylight found the Hesler Suitorium, the Emerson grocery store, E. C. Knight's harness shop, the York Transfer Association and the implement store of Belcher & Belcher homeless, with stocks and possessions of all kinds wrecked or destroyed. The larger warehouse of Belcher & Belcher on the corner was not burned down and a large part of the machinery was removed to places of safety. A part of E. C. Knight's new stock of harness was carried across the street before it was too late but the contents of Emerson's grocery were burned and it is said the stock was uninsured. The Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company had large quantities of goods, including instruments, wire and equipment of all kinds, stored in the room in the rear of the Hesler Suitorium. There was nothing saved.

The building next to the alley was the property of Christian Hild, who had it insured for \$2,000. It was one of the oldest buildings left in town having been erected in 1877. Though all the structures burned were frame they had been covered with sheet iron in the rear and the Belcher warehouse were practically encased in the iron. The fire-fighters were in dangerous situations many times during the struggle and the effort to keep the flames within bounds was no child's play. The cold was greater than that of Sunday morning and icicles formed rapidly. The side of the Chilcote Building was a sheet of ice, so thoroughly had the brick walls been deluged with water as a precautionary measure.

The destruction of the old Phillips Building and the structure which was known for many years as the City Hall removes two more from the rapidly lessening list of landmarks in the business portion of the city. The City Hall was erected in 1877 by Read and Brandhofer and while the lower floor served to house several pioneer business firms, the big room in the second story was used as a court room, for church services, dances, lodge meetings and social gatherings of all kinds. W. W. Wyckoff recalls that when he came to York in February, 1881, Judge Post was holding court

in the room, and he visited court as one of the few places of interest in town. For some time the Methodists held services in the hall after the congregation had outgrown the little church and before a larger house of worship was erected. Mr. Phillips occupied this building, which originally stood on the corner of Sixth Street, as a place of business. His residence, which is now occupied by the New Teller, stood on the adjoining lots. Both houses were moved as the town grew.

YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

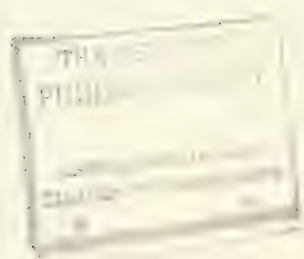
York's pride in her fire department's team, which had won the championship at Fremont in 1886, when this was repeated in 1887, and the world's record lowered at the same time is most adequately reflected in the following press accounts of this and the 1889 victory,

The annual tournament of the Nebraska State Firemen's Association took place at Kearney in July, 1887. The weather was unusually pleasant, the whole week being all that could have been asked for. The exercises of the week begun on Tuesday with a firemen's parade at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning participated in by all the firemen on the ground. The York running team appeared in the procession with running pants and stockings, white shirt and white tie with the regulation cap and made by far the finest appearance of any company on the ground. The boys were widely complimented on their novel uniform, and created a decided impression. The races of the day opened at two o'clock the 45 hook and ladder race being first. Three teams were entered, York, Kearney and Holdrege. The Holdrege company had been organized but a short time and were a very green team. They made an excellent run and scored in 52 seconds. The Kearneys then came on the track and covered the 300 yards in $39\frac{1}{4}$ seconds and called time in $46\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. The never beaten York team covered the ground in even 39 seconds and called time in $45\frac{3}{4}$ seconds winning first money, \$200. The 41 hose race was won by the G. Kramer hose team, of Kearney, in even 40 seconds, beating all records, and taking first money, \$200. The ladder climbing contest took place on Wednesday and was won by Tom Kinney, the Kearney ladderman, in 7 2-5 seconds, Geo. Chilcote of this city, making an average of 7 3-5 and Mr. Schmidt, the Holdrege climber, in 7 14-15. York has perhaps the most graceful and easy climber in the world. He never makes a slip or a balk in a race and can always be depended upon. In the ladder contest his opponent was a much taller man and saved three steps on each climb of the ladder which more than accounted for the average of 1-5 of a second faster time. The green races took place on Wednesday and were opened by the Holdrege Hooks who called for time in 50 3-5 seconds, a marked improvement over the day before. The H. Randalls, of Kearney, another green hook and ladder team, scored in 52 seconds, winning second money. The chief's race was won by J. E. Deirks, of Fremont, who crossed the sawdust in 11 seconds, leaving a large and numerous mixed field of chiefs to fight for second and third place. The coupling contest was won by the Neville hose team, of Plattsmouth, in 5 7-15 seconds, all the other contestants failing to get time. The green hose race was won by the Nevilles of Plattsmouth. Thursday morning, the waterworks company gave an exhibition of their city waterworks. Eight streams were thrown at one time, with eighty-five pounds of steam, with sufficient force to drown any fire. Water was thrown from ninety to one hundred and fifty feet high. The works are the direct pressure, Holly system. The Walker

pump is used and is one of the best pumps in existence for fire service. Kearney may well feel proud of her waterworks. The great interest in the tournament appeared to be in the races to take place on Thursday afternoon. The championship hook and ladder race for \$300 and the championship belt came first. The Kearney running team first took their position on the trap. The boys were in the best possible condition for the race, being in active training since last November, the greater part of the time under a professional trainer. The Kearney team and the citizens of Kearney have exerted every effort to win the championship belt. Neither time, pains nor money has been spared to make the team perfection. All Kearney appeared to be sanguine that the belt would fall an easy victim to their superior training. The team made a brilliant start and ran the race to a finish in even 45 seconds. The air was rent with Kearney cheers, and in fact every one on the grounds cheered the great run. The green team of Holdrege then started and made their best run, calling time in $49\frac{3}{4}$ seconds. The York team then walked up the track to the starting point, with a firm step and firmer resolution to beat the record or die in the attempt. Fire was in every eye, determination in every look. Every member recognized the fact that 45 seconds to the top of a thirty foot ladder was a hard record to beat; but the record of the York hook and ladder company was in peril, the credit of the city of York was at stake, and thirty of the flower of the young manhood of York were there to vindicate themselves, their company and their city. The word go, was given, and the greatest hook and ladder run ever made in the world begun. The truck went off the trap as if it had been shot from a cannon, and in the words of a Kearney writer, "the team flew over the track as fleet footed as deer." The first 200 yards was perhaps the prettiest run ever made by thirty men. The start was unfortunately too quick, as a number of good runners were thrown off their feet, and a number were forced to drop out. The speed was kept up until 250 yards were passed over when the team slackened. Those remaining on the truck made one last effort to save the day and crossed the score with six men on the rope. The ladder worked perfectly, Chilcote shot up the rounds like a squirrel up a tree and called time in 44 4-5 seconds, beating all records and winning for York the belt and the championship of the world. The time keepers failed to agree for over 20 minutes, a Kearney man who was acting as time keeper claiming the time to be 45 seconds. Three disinterested men were then called in and the watches handed them who promptly decided the time to be 44 4-5. An element in the Kearney team at once commenced to kick and finally appealed to the board of control at eight o'clock that evening. The board sustained the report of the timers by a vote of six to one, the off man being the Kearney member. The York team invariably win their races on the track and do it honorably. No member of the York team has ever appealed from the decision of the judges, neither has this company ever made a kick on any decision either of the timers, judges or board of control. The championship hose races then followed and were won by the G. Kramer hose team of Kearney in the unheard of time of $39\frac{1}{4}$ seconds, winning the prize of \$300 and the championship cart. Tony Cornelius, the Kramer coupler, is a prodigy. He breaks the coupling and applies the nozzle with two motions of the hands and does the work with rapidity and ease that is astonishing. The Pacific hose team of Grand Island took second money in 42 1-5, the Dorseys of Fremont third, in $56\frac{1}{2}$. The Nevilles of Plattsmouth missed coupling and got no time. At a meeting of the board of control on Thursday evening it was decided not to run the free for all



LINCOLN AVENUE, YORK, IN AN EARLY DAY



races on Friday, the necessary five teams in each class not having entered. Immediately after this decision, a portion of the teams left for home, and the York team was turned loose and took no further care of themselves. On Friday morning the committee of arrangements wishing to continue the tournament another day offered a first prize of \$100 for hose and hook races. When the York team was notified of the new purse, a portion of the men had gone on a visit to Shelton and other points, making it utterly impossible to enter a race that day. A collection of sprinters was then got together under the name of Kearney, and a last effort made to beat the record. This signally failed with all the professional runners that could be secured and running a light weight truck they only succeeded in tying the time made by York on the day previous. The Daily Journal of Kearney, a paper which never did the York team justice, intimated in its issue of Saturday morning, that the Yorks were afraid to run the Kearneys after the close shave of the day before. The Democrat is surprised that any respectable paper should claim anything for the mixed run made with the Kearney truck on Friday. The Kearney running team claims nothing for it themselves. If it is necessary to give the snap away, the Democrat is in a position to do it. In the team which made the run on Friday, there were no less than eight professional runners, none of whom can claim a legal membership in the Kearney fire department; add to this the fact that the truck was unloaded and every possible pound taken off that could be removed, until nothing but a skeleton of the regulation truck remained. These are hard cold stubborn facts, which the Democrat knows from being actually present on the ground, and we defy any paper in Kearney or elsewhere to successfully contradict them. There are not legitimate firemen nor money enough in Kearney to beat the York champions on any neutral track in the United States. The claim of the Kearney sheet that the Kearney team "are justly entitled to the honors as the champions of the state," is rot, and is on a par with the characteristic and chronic kickers of a certain element which infest that city. If the Kearney team wished to bear the honors of the champions of the state, they should have won the honor on the track, and not after the race was over, through the mouth of an irresponsible newspaper. This claim is nothing more nor less than hog wash, and the Democrat does not believe that any respectable fireman in Kearney or out of it claims anything of the kind. The hose races closed the exercises of the day, and the tournament. First money was won by the Kramer's in 40 1-5. The Alerts of Cheyenne used service hose and a cart which weighed 1,160 pounds. With these two great disadvantages, the boys called time in 46 3-5 seconds. The Alerts also gave an exhibition run on the streets of about 400 feet, connected with a hydrant, and threw water in 36 seconds. The Stein hose team of Kearney made a run in 44 seconds. The Dorsey hose team of Fremont made the closing run of the tournament, but unfortunately their hose broke and no time was given. A pleasant incident took place on Friday morning at the York headquarters. A committee was sent out, and a \$14 silk hat purchased, which was presented by Capt. Knapp, on behalf of the company to J. V. Hyder, the leader of the team. Hyder was paralyzed, and could say nothing in reply, but wears the tile in honor of the great run and of the fifth anniversary of his marriage, which occurred on the same day. The York team left for home on Saturday morning, and had their car gaily decorated with brooms, flags, etc. On either side of the car was the inscription, "York running team, champions of the world, time 44 4-5 sec." The Kearney band and a portion of the fire department marched to the train and gave

the boys a serenade and grand send off. The best of feeling prevailed between the teams, and if it had not been for a few chronic kickers which curse the Kearney department, the same good feeling might have prevailed all the week. York usually does itself proud, but on this occasion our city excelled itself. When the boys arrived at the B. & M. depot, on the 1:10 train from the west, a grand ovation awaited them. Apparently every man, woman and child in York, and for miles around were assembled to greet the victors. Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, a new organization which was formed while the boys were gone, were there in all their beauty and glory under Geo. E. Marston as captain. Their new truck and their \$50,000 horse, which was secured to lead the company, was there and assisted to give the boys a welcome home. The procession formed under J. H. Hamilton, marshal of the day, headed by the band and escorted to the city. A number of young ladies on horseback wearing a scarf with the word "Welcome" made a fine appearance. The business houses of the city were profusely decorated with flags, brooms, bunting and mottoes of welcome. A grand triumphal arch was erected across Lincoln Avenue, near the northwest corner of the square. The procession was dismissed with cheers and counter cheers and the victorious running team invited to partake of an elegant banquet prepared at the Blodgett House. Mr. Blodgett had provided perhaps the finest spread ever sat down to in York. At 2:30 the members of the team with their ladies sat down to the following:

MENU

Chicken with Rice Soup.	Potato Pattie, a la Cream
Lobster Salad	
Corn Gems	Greens Celery

Joints

Roast Sirloin of Beef with Brown Gravy	
Loin of Pork, Apple Sauce	Boiled Ham, Champagne Sauce
Leg of Mutton, Caper Sauce	Tongue, Tomato Sauce,

Entres

Fried Spring Chicken, Minnetonka Style	
Boston Baked Beans	Rice
Apple Fritters, with Frugalae of Pineapple	

Vegetables

Mashed Potatoes	Boiled Potatoes	Wax Beans in Cream
Sliced Cucumbers	Green Tomatoes	
Green Corn		
Young Beets	Cold Slaw	

Pastry

Lemon Pie	Green Apple Pie
English Plum Pudding, with Brandy Sauce	
Ice Cream	
Watermelon	Assorted Cake Fruit
	Crackers Cheese
Tea	Coffee Iced Tea Milk

At 8:30 a grand reception was tendered the company at the opera house, Lee Love was master of ceremonies. Mayor Scott in an appropriate speech, delivered an address of welcome which was responded to by H. H. Bowker, chief of York fire department. Mr. H. L. Spaulding, chief of the Norfolk fire department, in a few pointed remarks complimented York on her fire department and told the audience how the race was won, he being a member of the board of control was in a position to know. Appropriate toasts were responded to by E. A. Gilbert, F. C. Power, Hon. N. V. Harlan, Geo. B. France and Edward Bates all of which were full of wit, humor and welcome for the boys and were hugely enjoyed by all present. The day and evening was one long to be remembered by the team and our citizens. The following is the personnel of the team who made the run and who now are the champion hook and ladders runners of the world:

W. R. Knapp, captain; Geo. F. Corcoran, assistant captain; J. V. Hyder, leader.

W. C. Bishop, Frank Osborn, Frank Clapp, W. A. Beck, J. B. Maylard, L. H. Dale, Chas. Elliott, O. J. Burns, S. A. Harper, Chas. Rosenlof, Fred Fahrback, Frank Collier, Thos. Buchanan, J. D. Epley, E. Gould, J. C. Bishop, W. D. Fisher, C. D. Barnes, Alvin Stafford, D. R. Gould, August Peterson, W. R. Furman, Geo. E. Schoettler, T. E. Hamilton, John Bishop, H. J. Porter, C. H. Collier, Geo. E. Chilcote, ladderman.

CHAMPIONSHIP BELT

It comes back to York for the third and last time, and will remain the property of the York Fire Department forever.

As previously announced the running team of the hook and ladder company left for Red Cloud last week on Tuesday to participate in the seventh annual tournament. They were accompanied by a good crowd of friends and admirers, and altogether made as jolly a crowd as ever took a trip of the kind in the world. The boys appeared in the parade on Wednesday morning and gave the Kilpatricks of Beatrice a very close shave for the silk banner for the finest appearing company. The fine clothes of the Beatrice aggregation and the opinion of the judges gave them the banner. The York boys were generally satisfied, all agreeing that they did not wish to travel on their shape but preferred to win their laurels by fair and honorable contests. The tournament opened on Wednesday afternoon with green races, the first being the green hose race, which was won by the Hollands of Red Cloud in 53½ seconds; Aurora taking second money in 54. The next was the race for chiefs and assistant chiefs. York was represented by W. Cardwell, who represented Chief Corcoran. Bert is a nice easy runner and covered the 300-yard dash in 35 4-5 seconds with his competitors far in the rear, thus winning the chief's hat valued at \$15. This was the first blood for York and the York contingent yelled themselves hoarse. The next was the race for foremen and assistant foremen. Will C. Bishop entered for the York hooks and won a decided and easy victory in 35 2-5 seconds, winning the foreman's belt. This was the first knock down for York and the crowd yelled again—that is the York crowd, and they were capable of yelling to the queen's taste. As there was no race in which the York team could enter on that day and the crowd

kept calling for the appearance of the York team on the track, the boys decided to give an exhibition run for a special purse of \$25. The run was made in 51 4-5 seconds and it was then the turn of the delighted audience to cheer the fine work of the York boys to the echo.

THURSDAY'S RACES

Thursday afternoon the 39' hose class was called and was for all hose companies that had never beaten 39 seconds. The Kramer hose team of Kearney came up the hill against the wind and crossed the score in 40 seconds, Tony Cornelius, the greatest coupler on the face of the earth, getting time in 43 seconds; the Hollands of Red Cloud taking second money in 51 seconds; the Auroras made the run and coupling in 58.

The 44 hook and ladder class was then called and the York team appeared upon the track. A terrific storm had come up that blew directly from the north and right in the face of the runners. The track was up hill about 15 inches to the 100 yards, or nearly 4 feet in the distance and was soft and spongy. All good judges pronounced it at least 5 seconds slow. When the York team took their place at the starting score the wind had risen to a terrific gale and was demolishing fences, stands and frightened the occupants of the amphitheatre so badly they left their seats and sought safety on the ground. Against this wind the York team came up the track and made the climb in 52 2-5 seconds. The time was considered marvelous. No one believed that it was possible to raise a 30-foot ladder in such a storm. The always ready hooks of Grand Island then started with twelve men and made a good run for 175 yards, when one of the leaders fell and was dragged until some one pulled him out of the way and a number of the York team helped push the truck home, their man climbing to the top in 75 seconds. The run created more genuine fun than any contest of the tournament.

The coupling contest was entered by Cornelius and Mott of Kearney and Dinsmore and Hart of Aurora. The trial was a walk-away for the Kearney couplers, the best time being 6 2-5 seconds. The best time made by Aurora was 9 seconds.

Cornelius and Mott then gave an exhibition of their skill, making three 50 foot heats in 4, 4 and 3 4-5 seconds. Four heats of 3 feet each were made in 1 2-5, 1 1-5, 1 and 1 1-5. Cornelius made the 50 foot run and coupling alone in 4 seconds and 3 feet in 1 second. Blindfolded he made the coupling in 1 4-5 seconds.

The ladder climbing contest was won by Geo. E. Chilcote of York in three heats, the best time 7 3-5. Chas. Mott of Kearney won the second prize, the silver cup, best heat 8 seconds. The champion ladder, first prize, was awarded to Chilcote and the second prize, the silver cup, to Mott.

In the hub and hub race between the two hose teams making the slowest time the entries were the Hollands and the Auroras; no coupling was made by either and the race was postponed until Friday.

FRIDAY'S RACES

The last day of the tournament opened bright and pleasant. The Grand Island Pompier corps gave an excellent exhibition on the front of the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building and were awarded first prize.

The hub and hub race postponed from Thursday was first run off. The Holland hose company made the run of 100 yards and got a coupling in 26 seconds. The Aurora team failed to get a coupling. The silver trumpet given by C. H. Smith, representing the Gutta Percha and Rubber Mfg Company was accordingly awarded to the Hollands.

The state championship hose race was next. The Kramers made the run and coupling in even 42 seconds, covering the distance in $38\frac{1}{2}$. This is considered a better run considering the track than the great run at Kearney in 1887, when they made their record of $39\frac{1}{4}$ seconds. The Aurora Hose started next and got time in 58 4-5. The Hollands then made an elegant run to the plug, but the hose caught, smashing the reel beyond recognition, and thus failed to get it off. The board of control after examining the broken cart granted them another run, which they made in 49 4-5, winning second money. First money and the championship cart was taken for the second time by the Kramers.

The championship Hook and Ladder race was next on the programme and was filled with York, Red Cloud and Grand Island. The Red Cloud team drew first place and started making the run and climb in $57\frac{1}{2}$. The York team then came upon the track and were loudly cheered. They presented the appearance of runners every man. The ladies waved their handkerchiefs and parasols and shouted "here comes the champions, don't they look splendid." The team modestly took their places at the start and at the word "go" came up the soft and spongy track like a field of thoroughbred racers on the home stretch for a neck and neck finish. Every man stayed in his place, not a runner dropping out until the score was crossed.

The ladder worked perfectly as usual, and Chilcote the surest climber that ever stepped on a track shot up the thirty feet and called time in 48 2-5. When the time was announced everybody went wild and the York contingent yelled with a peculiar York yell that was terrible to hear. The boys received the congratulations of the crowd gracefully. They realized that they had made the run of their lives. The time was fully a second better, everything considered than the great race at Kearney in 1887 when they lowered the world's record to 44 4-5. On the Kearney track with such a run their record would be below 44. The Always Ready Hook & Ladder of Grand Island made the run and got time in 71 1-5, York winning the championship belt for the third and last time and Red Cloud taking second money. In the tug of war contest the Holland hose company captured the trophy and first prize, the York hooks taking second money.

Gov. Thayer made a speech and conferred all the prizes upon the winners. As he handed the championship belt to Captain Knapp of the York team he told them to "keep it forever" and pronounced them the "Champions of the whole world."

The summary of the winnings of the team at the tournament shows the champion belt, the champion ladder, the chief's hat, the foreman's belt and \$280 in cash, which is doing very well for a team picked up and put in harness on a week's notice.

Among the many pleasant incidents of the tournament was the presentation of a handsomely engraved gold watch to A. J. Tomlinson, chairman of the executive committee. John was the man who got up the whole tournament and in fact was the whole tournament himself. The watch was purchased by a number of his admiring friends and was presented by Gov. Thayer at the close of the presentation of the prizes. Mr. Tomlinson was taken by storm and completely knocked out. He

thanked his friends for the interest taken in his work, but thought that he had no more than done his duty.

The visiting firemen left the city on Saturday morning more than pleased with the treatment accorded them by the firemen and citizens of Red Cloud.

The board of control at its last meeting passed the following resolutions:

Board met at 8 p. m. Moved that a vote of thanks be extended to all visitors who so kindly assisted in making the seventh annual tournament a success and that special mention be made of C. H. Smith, representing the Gutta Percha and Rubber Mfg Company of Chicago, for his grand special prize trumpet and for his gallant and timely assistance during the entire week, and also special mention be made of J. H. Meddaugh of the Boston Woven Hose Company, and Col. Phil Trounstone and C. E. Hagar of Denver and Gov. Thayer for their presence and courtesies shown the tournament management.

Moved that the thanks of the board are due the citizens and fire department of Red Cloud for their hospitality and sacrifices made by them to entertain the visitors at this tournament.

Moved that the board compliment the competing fire companies on their general good behavior and gentlemanly conduct at all times, and on the fact that the late tournament terminated so pleasantly and that not a protest was filed during the entire week.

Moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the ladies of Red Cloud for the elegant display made at the Art gallery and the financial assistance thereby rendered the tournament management.

Moved that this board censure T. R. Polglaze of the Interstate Fire Alarm Company of Omaha for his treatment of the tournament committee in failing to furnish the electric starter after having voluntarily agreed to do so and failing to notify said committee until after the date set for the opening of the tournament. Board adjourned sine die.

“York, Neb., May 5, 1890.

To the Honorable, the Mayor and City Council, City of York, Nebraska.

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to herewith submit my annual report as Chief of the Fire Department of the City of York, for the year ending May, 5, 1890.

The Volunteer Fire Department of this city consists of about fifty active members divided into one hook and ladder company and three hose companies.

FIRES

The department responded to six fire alarms during the year, at two of which no service was rendered.

The city has had no disastrous fire during the year.

The four fires of the year were from the following causes:

Struck by lightning	1
Incendiary	1
Defective stove pipe	1
Unknown, but supposed incendiary	1

Total

4

Total cash value of property destroyed by fire during the year \$1,500.

Total cash value of property in hazard, which certainly would be lost without fire protection, \$48,600.

Making the total loss by fire during the year less than three per cent of the property in hazard, which is a record of which the city may well feel proud, and speaks volumes for the promptness and efficiency of the volunteer fire service. This per cent would not be lower with a paid department.

Total number feet of hose laid at fires 3,600.

Distance traveled by department going to and from fires and alarms, 10,400 yards.

APPARATUS

One hook and ladder truck with seven ladders and buckets, hooks and other tools in fair condition worth about	\$ 500
3 hose carts, good condition	525
1,500 feet rubber hose, good condition	1,500
4 hose pipes	50
25 rubber coats and caps	100

Total value\$2,675

All of which has been paid for except \$317.50 and the interest thereon due Aug. 19, 1890.

The apparatus is all in good condition except a broken boxing in one wheel of hose cart No. 1.

The department is now well organized and the discipline has been up to the standard of many paid departments whose members devote their whole time to the service.

The losses by fire next year must depend to a great extent upon the efficiency of this department of the city's servants.

As your honorable body will understand, this branch of the city employes has not cost the city funds a cent except for needed apparatus. The city cannot expect another year with so small a number of fire alarms and fires, and to keep the loss down, a little substantial encouragement should be extended to the officers of the department, who will have the brunt of the burden to carry, in order to keep fire apparatus in good, servicable condition and ready for instant use, and to keep the organization of the department in a good healthy condition. Plattsburgh has adopted a plan by which it pays to the foreman of each company \$25 a year, to the chief \$25 a year, and to the secretary of the department \$50 a year, and \$2.50 to each nozzleman for every fire, and in addition to this pays to the teams taking part in the annual state tournaments a sum equal to one dollar for each and every active member in the department for the purpose of defraying their expenses.

The officers of this department have sacrificed considerable every year to keep this very necessary service in successful operation, and I would now recommend that an ordinance be passed, paying to the chief, foreman of each company and the secretary of the department \$25 each, and to each nozzleman \$2.50 for each fire at which services is rendered. This remuneration will in part reimburse the boys for the necessary damage and losses to clothing and wearing apparel and is in justice

due them and will have the effect of promoting an interest among the members that will result in great good to the city. These men volunteer to defend the common property of the community without pay, and often undergo great hardships and dangers. A little trifle expended each year by the city will have a good effect, and maintain an organization of which every citizen of York is proud.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. F. CORCORAN,

Chief Fire Department.

"The ninth annual convention of the Nebraska Volunteer Firemen's Association was held at Grand Island on Tuesday and Wednesday. Geo. F. Corcoran, J. V. Hyder and W. D. Fisher were the representatives of the York department. The meeting was an interesting one from start to finish and a great deal of work was done for the good of the association. John Wilson, of Kearney, was re-elected president; F. W. Crew, of St. Paul, vice president; A. J. Tomlinson, of Red Cloud, second vice president; Geo. F. Corcoran, re-elected secretary; W. H. Havens, of Fremont re-elected treasurer. The new board of control consists of Geo. F. Corcoran, York, chairman; A. J. Tomlinson, Red Cloud; W. H. Havens, Fremont; F. H. Baillie, Grand Island; Ira Johnson, Kearney; W. H. Pickens, Plattsmouth; C. C. Eroe, Stromsburg. The next annual meeting of the association will be held at Fremont, the third Tuesday in January, 1902. The contest for the meeting was a spirited one between Fremont and Kearney, Fremont winning on account of its central location. The matter of locating the next annual tournament was referred to the board of control to locate in any city offering sufficient inducement for it. The matter will probably be decided in a few weeks. The firemen of Grand Island did themselves proud in entertaining the visiting delegates. The visitors were welcomed by Mayor Platt and the town thrown open to them. A grand parade was given Wednesday afternoon in which all the fire apparatus of the city was brought out. The meeting closed with a grand ball and banquet last night. The banquet was spread in the city hall and covers laid for 200. John Wilson presided as president of the banquet. William Geddes, of Grand Island, filled the place of toast master to perfection; C. F. Bentley, of Grand Island, responded to the sentiment "Our Guests." F. W. Crew, of St. Paul, answered the toast "Fire." S. H. Sornberger, of Wahoo, responded to the call of "Hose." J. D. Moore, of Grand Island, responded to the toast "The Ladies." Charles Fisher of Omaha, to the "Hook and Ladder." T. J. Ward, of Red Cloud, a man-who-never-tasted-water-in-his-life, responded to the toast "Water." Geo. F. Corcoran responded to the toast "The Ninth Annual Convention." President Wilson responded to the sentiment "N. S. V. F. A." The banquet was a huge success in every respect and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The grand ball at the new A. O. U. W. hall was enjoyed by the young visitors who made many pleasant acquaintances, who will long remember the hospitality of the Grand Island firemen and citizens, all of whom hold a warm place in the heart of every fireman in Nebraska."

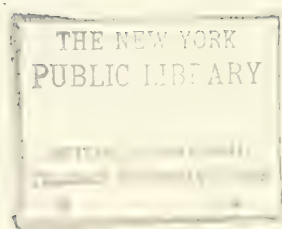
"STATE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Interesting Session of the Association at Fremont.

The State Association of the Volunteer Firemen met at Fremont last week (1890) and held an interesting session. The meeting was largely attended and the



TWO VIEWS OF CITY PARK, YORK



boys were enthusiastic in their work, and were royally entertained by the good people of that city. A business meeting was held Wednesday to hear the reports of committees and effect an organization for business.

The committee on legislation reported that a bill had been passed by the legislature of 1889 assessing all insurance companies two per cent. of their receipts for the support of the fire departments of the cities and towns of the state, and also that it was declared unconstitutional last month by the state supreme court. A committee consisting of Messrs. Sornberger, Carre, Golden, Johnson and Killian was appointed to draft a new bill, covering the same idea, to be presented and urged for passage by the next legislature.

Among the business of this meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, We believe that at the time of the World's Columbia Exposition, to be held in the city of Chicago in 1893, it would be very desirable that a most complete recognition should be tendered the volunteer firemen of America and the world and that proper arrangements should be effected to that end; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Nebraska State Firemen's Association, in convention assembled, that we hereby endorse the action already taken by the Illinois, Arkansas, and other state associations and that we recommend to the director general of the World's Columbian Exposition the appointment of George F. Corcoran, secretary of this association, to act with such other representatives as may be appointed from other state associations and similar organizations, as a proper and competent person to arrange to completion for a complete and interesting exhibit of fire-fighting appliances and their workings, and also to arrange for a grand firemen's tournament to be national, and if possible, international in its character, to which undertaking the volunteer firemen of Nebraska, the state holding many of the best records in firemen's skill and endurance, pledge their hearty support and encouragement in an active and enthusiastic manner.

Officers were elected for the following year as follows:

President, W. H. Havens, Fremont; First Vice President, H. L. Spaulding, Norfolk; Second Vice President, S. H. Sornberger, Wahoo; Secretary, George F. Corcoran, York; Treasurer, A. J. Tomlinson, Red Cloud.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer show \$134 cash on hand. The committee on tournament for 1892 reported the following schedule of prizes: For thirty-eight hose race, \$300; for forty-four hose race, \$300; state hose race, \$200; hook and ladder race, \$200; green hose race, \$150; green hook and ladder race, \$150; badges not to exceed \$100.

The board of control for the next tournament was appointed as follows: George F. Corcoran, York; T. V. Golden, O'Neill; Louis Schwartz, Columbus; A. C. Hull, Fremont; C. C. Evans, Stromsburg; W. F. Pickering, Kearney; and A. W. Tomlinson, Red Cloud.

When the association convened in the afternoon of the last day, the first business was the presentation by Secretary Corcoran on behalf of the department of a fine gold headed cane to the retiring president. That gentleman having returned home, Mayor Johnson of Kearney gracefully accepted the elegant stick. Immediately following this pleasant incident, Mayor Johnson presented to Secretary Corcoran a costly gold chain, with an elegant A. O. U. W. charm attachment. This was as beautiful a token of appreciation of Mr. Corcoran's services in the interest of the association as it was a complete yet pleasant surprise to him.

Kearney was selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting. The place of holding the next tournament was left to the board of control. The association closed with a grand ball and banquet at the Masonic hall Thursday night.

T. E. Hamilton, of York, reported the proceedings of the association.

PARKS

The following recent comment on the parks of York shows the extent of the wonderful park system developed by this city.

One of the things that York people have a right to take a special pride in, is the marked improvement in the playgrounds of the city and the notable extension of the facilities for enjoying outdoor life. The addition of the central park, the property of the school district, to the park system is one feature worth mention. This little breathing spot, within a block of the heart of the business center, is rapidly becoming a place of beauty which will give pleasure to hundreds of passers by, and, as the trees become larger, will afford a resting place for both residents and transients.

Up on Lincoln Boulevard, the generous parkways in the center of the street are being further improved by the park commission and like the central park will give delight to many people daily.

The trees in East Hill Park are assuming such a size that they now afford a real shelter and the plot is growing in favor from season to season with those who have convenient access to it. City Park will always, no doubt, remain the favorite, as it is the largest, of the park group. This spring it is in splendid form and the commissioners are adding swings, tables and benches for the use of children and picnic parties to the similar equipment that was installed last season. It has been suggested that a portion of the park, or its annex across the street, known as Chautauqua Park, be set aside for the use of tourists who may enjoy camping while traveling overland. The Commercial Club is considering the establishment of such camping grounds this summer.

Adjacent to City Park and stretching up over the hill to the west lie the Country Club grounds. These grounds are not public property, but the owners are so generous with their friends that many scores who are not stockholders enjoy the benefits of the spacious lawns.

Spending a vacation at home is yearly becoming more attractive to York folks as the playgrounds available grow in size and beauty.

CHAPTER VI

OTHER TOWNS IN YORK COUNTY

ARBORVILLE—BRADSHAW—WACO—MC COOL JUNCTION—GRESHAM—THAYER—BENEDICT—HENDERSON—LUSHTON—OTHER TOWNS.

ARBORVILLE

Arberville is a pretty little village situated in the northwestern corner of York County. It was started in 1875 by Rev. C. S. Harrison, and was laid out in section 9, township 12, range 4, west of 6th P. M., upon some of Reverend Harrison's land. Trees were planted on every street to make an arbor, and thus the town secured its name Arberville. This town was laid out in the expectation of a railroad line, which never arrived, and when the railroads did come one line went through Benedict, eight miles east, and the line which Arberville really expected went through Polk, about three miles north, and this sounded the death knell of commercial possibilities of this community. The first store building in this town was put up by W. H. Fairchild. This store was five years later sold to J. L. Dorsey & Raymond, and the store finally burned down. After Fairchild and J. L. Dorsey & Raymond, the next commercial ventures in the community were made by G. L. Dorsey & W. H. Tenney. The drug store was started in 1877, and was sold in 1880 to S. Ensign. It burned down in 1884. Another was built by a stock company and is still running.

This community was started by Rev. C. S. Harrison, who built the First Congregational Church in 1877. The present church was built in 1910. A Methodist Episcopal church was built about 1880 and moved away in 1907. The Congregational pastors have been Rev. G. W. Mitchell, Reverend Stocking, Reverend Payne, Reverend Gardner, Reverend Hart, Reverend Young, Reverend McClery, Reverend Brownback, and Rev. S. Harvey, the present minister.

The town has had a public school ever since it started. Arberville has never become an incorporated village, so has always remained under the local government of Arberville Township.

Among those who are living in town now who lived there in the first few years of its existence are Doctor Ensign, M. E. Bedient, Henry Kisler, A. E. Wilcox, C. Stouffer, and Fred Bedient.

The social and fraternal phases of life have always been intensively fostered in this community. Among the orders which have had lodges there are: M. W. A., which has a large lodge still running; Royal Neighbors, A. O. U. W., Maccabees, G. A. R., and Sons of Veterans.

Among the principals of the public school who have served this community are: W. H. Lynn, Miss Baier, Miss Baugh, Miss Sullivan, G. W. Raymond, and Miss Wochner.

BRADSHAW

"In the fall of 1880, when the B. & M. Railroad was extended from York to Grand Island, the Town of Bradshaw was established. The town was first located on Mr. W. F. Morrison's farm, a little east of where it now is, but was soon moved from there and located on the land owned by Messrs. O. R. and J. M. Richards.

"Mr. W. D. Post opened up the first general store in Bradshaw in the fall of 1879, in the building now occupied by Mr. Yoder. The post-office was then moved from Plainfield to his store, and he became Bradshaw's first postmaster. Mr. Post also acted as depot agent and telegraph operator, besides running a drug store and elevator and handling live stock. As a competitor in the grain business he had our then worthy citizen, Mr. O. R. Richards, who began buying grain the same time. To Mr. A. Linsley, now deceased, belongs the distinction of being the oldest resident of Bradshaw. He opened up a blacksmith shop, as soon as the town was located, near where the hotel stands. About the same time Messrs. Le Count and Knapp opened the first hardware store. In the spring of 1881 Mr. O. A. Stubbs opened the second general store and became one of Bradshaw's business men. As a resident physician, Dr. A. R. Allen came first in the spring of 1882, and is thus one of Bradshaw's oldest residents. Thus the business enterprises began to increase and develop until we have an array of business firms of which we can well feel proud.

"The Village of Bradshaw has had a sad as well as eventful history, which placed her for a time in the long list of the ruined cities of the world. In the evening of the third day of June, 1890, the residents of this little village and the surrounding country stood in helpless suspense and watched two peculiar storm clouds approaching, one moving from the northwest to the southeast, and one moving from the southwest to the northeast. The clouds met near the edge of Bradshaw, and before the citizens could seek a place of safety the cyclone was upon them. Not a house in the village but was damaged and most of them were entirely demolished. Business houses were ruined and many of them were swept away entirely. The flood of rain and the intense darkness that followed made the situation most pitiable. Some of the residents were buried beneath the debris and many of them were injured—some fatally. As soon as possible the news was sent to York, and right royally did the residents of that city respond with every possible assistance.

"It will ever be a credit to the pluck and energy of our citizens, some of whom lost every dollar of their property, that in the face of the most appalling disaster and discouragements they arose with faith and determination, and over the ruins of the past they rebuilt their homes and re-established their business. A stranger would never suspect now that this pleasant little village with its beautiful homes was ever in such utter ruin."

The maiden name of Mrs. J. M. Richards was Mary Bradshaw, and from her our village received its name.

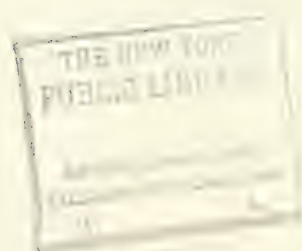
The first board of trustees were: David Hitchcock, president; Harry Belcher, clerk; J. H. Currie, treasurer; A. Linsley, R. C. Buckley, H. M. Richmond, and Henry Koch, trustees.

The business men of Bradshaw in 1914 were:

Abbott, Dr. Fred	Allen, R. O., editor
Adams, A. J., live stock	Beatrice Creamery Co.



TWO VIEWS OF THE RUINS AT BRADSHAW AFTER THE CYCLONE OF JUNE 3, 1890



Bedient Bros., live stock	Marshall, J. C.
Central Grain Co., office	Miller, Dr. Edwin
Cline, M. M., grocery store	Morris Hotel
Currie Grain Co., office	Muirhead, veterinarian
Dey Sisters, millinery	Roggy, E. C., drug store
Fairmont Creamery Co.	Sandall, David, shoe store
Farmers State Bank	Sirrs, William, meat market
First National Bank	Smith, C. L., & Co., hardware
Gardiner, Charles, restaurant	Strahle, Charles, hardware
Gray, Art, drayman	Switzer & Son, livery
Hinshaw Lumber Co.	Whitfield, J. O., restaurant
Hord Grain Co.	Yoder & Yoder, general store
Masonic Hall	

In 1920 Bradshaw's business roster showed:

Adams & Elmore, livery stable	Gardiner, Charles, restaurant
Bedient Bros., live stock	Manhattan Oil Co.
Bedient, J. M., implements	Masonic Hall
Bradshaw Hotel	I. O. O. F. Hall
Carlson Bros., shoe store	Monitor
Central Grain & Lumber Co., yard	Morrison, Dr. George
Cline, M. M., grocery store	Muirhead, W. C., veterinarian
Currie Grain Co.	Palmer, C. B., Sr., store
Fairmont Creamery	Roggy, E. C., drug store
Farmers Implement Co.	Smith, C. L., & Co., hardware
Farmers Elevator Co.	Stratton, J. M., Delco Light
Farmers State Bank	Stratton Bros., store
First National Bank	Yoder & Yoder, general store

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Doctor Babcock built the First Methodist Church in Bradshaw in 1882 and the name of the circuit was changed from York Circuit to Bradshaw Circuit. Rev. H. F. Tyler was appointed to this circuit in 1882 and moved the class from Eberhart to Harmony Church. Then from 1883 to 1886 came Rev. A. J. Marsh. He moved the class from Harmony Church to Bradshaw and built the main part of the present parsonage. Following him came A. J. Whitmore for one year. From 1887 to 1889 Rev. L. C. Lemon preached at Bradshaw and attended the Methodist College at York. From 1889 to 1890 Rev. W. H. Prescott labored on this charge, building an addition to the parsonage and rebuilding the church as it now stands after the destructive cyclone of June 3, 1890.

The following pastors have since served on the Bradshaw work: Rev. C. S. Kathan, 1890-91; Rev. L. Morrison, 1891-1892; Rev. L. Ingham, 1892-1893; Rev. C. L. Hamilton, 1893-1895; Rev. F. Deal, 1895-1896; Rev. J. A. Chapin, 1896-1897; Rev. W. K. Williams, 1897-1898; Rev. H. G. Claycomb, 1898-1901; Rev. M. A. Wimberley, 1901.

CHRISTIAN

The Christians in the vicinity of Bradshaw were organized May 15, 1875, the congregation meeting for worship consisting of seven members: Benjamin Mapes and wife, Christopher Owings and wife, Margaret Higgs, William Mapes, Mary C. Hasbrouck, with Elder Noah Brotherton, of Hamilton County, presiding. In the fall of the same year Sarah Hasbrouck and William F. Morrison were added.

In the winter of 1879 E. Evans held a meeting in the Plainfield school house, just north of Bradshaw on the Owings farm, and organized a Sunday school; five additions were the fruit of that meeting. In the spring T. A. Parkinson was hired as pastor. In 1881 they moved their place of worship to Bradshaw, where nine were added by letter.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ at Bradshaw was organized May 18, 1884, with twenty-eight members, Elder Wohlgamuth presiding. In the spring of 1885 they commenced to build the church house that was blown down at the time of the cyclone in 1890. Of that congregation three are here, some are deceased, but most of them went west to find homes. In the fall of 1885 William Eckerman held a revival; the fruit of that meeting was thirteen added, and of that number five are still in the church. The evangelists who have held meetings since that time are: R. C. Barrows, D. A. Youtzy, J. S. Beem, A. W. Henry, A. W. Harney, N. B. Alley, A. D. Finde. The pastors who have labored for the church are: C. W. Henry, A. W. Harney, E. C. Whitaker, H. E. Motter. The student preachers are: H. J. Kennedy, Earl Boyd, F. W. Henry.

CONGREGATIONAL

In the latter part of 1879 Rev. William Woolman of Hastings held services in the small school house a little northeast of what is now Bradshaw, then called Plainfield. Some time in February of 1880 a proposition was submitted to the Christians of the place to organize a Congregational church. The following named persons consented to enter the organization: Dr. S. V. Moore, L. A. Moore, H. E. Simmons, A. P. Simmons, L. N. Buell, Mary Buell and H. E. Linsley. A council was called at the home of L. N. Buell March 19, 1880, and was composed of pastor and delegates from the Arborville, Grafton, Seely, York and Council churches and H. N. Gates, superintendent of missions for Nebraska. Rev. C. S. Harrison of York was chosen moderator and Rev. W. S. Hampton clerk. This council recommended that we be organized as the Congregational Church of Bradshaw. The church was incorporated May 1, 1880, with Rev. William Woolman pastor. The corner-stone of the church was laid October 22, 1880, and the building dedicated, free of debt, June 2, 1882, and cost about one thousand five hundred dollars. The following ministers have served this church: Reverends Dyas, Winslow, Benton, Geer, Baker and Otis. The evening of June 3, 1890, the building was made a total wreck by the cyclone.



WATER TOWER AND CITY HALL, BRADSHAW



SCHOOL HOUSE, WACO



WACO

Waco is situated about seven or eight miles east of York on the Lincoln and Billings line of the Burlington. It is laid out on sections 29 and 30, township 11, range 1. The town site was laid out upon the land of E. Austin and the town was started in 1877, about thirty days after the railroad came through. It was named after Waco, Texas, upon the instance of Miss Chapin, who had been a resident of that city. J. W. Strickler built the first building in the town, which was a store building and residence combined. Lew Inbody built one of the next houses, and another early house was that of Emerson Austin. After the store of J. W. Strickler was built, Armstrong & Creech came in with another general store. Mr. Strickler owned this first store for about twenty years, and since then there has been several other stores operated in this building, which in 1918 burned down. Bennett & Kendig and Monroe Sayre later operated a general store in Waco. Lewis Inbody started the first blacksmith shop in the town and has the distinction of being the only pioneer business man of the town who is still in business in Waco today.

The first grain elevators were operated by T. C. Tagg and J. P. Cheesman. Mr. Tagg had started buying grain in Waco in 1877 and shipped the first carload of grain upon the completion of the railroad into York. The first restaurant was started by J. McDonald and the first hotel by J. Couch. The first lumber yard was put in by H. C. Smith, later Fritz Beckord handling the lumber yard of which Robert Beckord is now manager. The first harness shop was started by C. W. Tinker, who is still here. L. Rogers started the first hardware store. The Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company operated an exchange here and the Public Service Company of York extended electric current to Waco. Ben Willis, Sr., started the first meat market. Herman C. Smith & Jno. H. Einsel put in a stock of implements in 1881. Thomas C. Tagg later handled this line. Miss Jennie Sayre handled the first millinery stock. Robert Strickler put in a drug store in Waco in 1880. The first livery stable was put in by J. W. Brooks and John Hilton.

The first church in Waco was started by the Methodist people in 1880. Reverend Claycomb was one of the first pastors. The church was built in 1884. Ezekiel Evans built his church about this time, of which he was the owner and pastor. The first bank was started by J. F. Shieks in 1884, of which Mr. Shieks was president and C. O. Wilson cashier.

Waco State Bank was organized in 1916, with V. H. Warfield as the first cashier and L. E. Cooper is the present cashier.

The first school was started in the same year as the town, and the town was incorporated on December 4, 1884, with A. G. Bogart as chairman and H. C. Smith clerk of the first town board. The present town board and officers are: Henry Willman, mayor; George Owens, Robert Beckord, L. G. Melton, John Bickley, with A. F. Willman as clerk. Among those who are living in town now, of the pioneers who lived here in the first few years, are: C. W. Tinker, William Stewart, Robert Beckord, John Everhart, X. Brandhoefer, — Wellman, Lewis Inbody, and William Uffeman.

Waco has not neglected the fraternal side of life, for it has had numerous lodges. The Odd Fellows order started here in 1913; the Rebekahs followed in 1919. The M. W. A. began their lodge in 1895, and the Royal Neighbors in 1903. The

A. O. U. W. have been here since 1892 and put a Degree of Honor Auxiliary here, and the Maccabees since 1900, and the G. A. R. have had a post since 1885.

The business interests of Waco in 1914 were:

Beckford, Robert, drugs	May, S. A., meat market
Beer, J. W., hotel	Gilbert, J. A., grain
Brown & Son, livery	Strickler & Son, store
Farmers' Grocery Co.	Tinker, C. W., hardware
Farmers & Traders Bank	Tinker, D. D., restaurant
Foster, Dr. W. L.	Waco Grain & Coal Co.
Gairdner, Dr. T.	Waco Mercantile Co.
Gilbert, J. A., lumber yard	Wellman, Ryan, implements

In 1920 Waco's busines roster showed:

Beckford, Robert, drugs	Rogge's Garage
Bedient Implement Co.	Tinker, C. W., hardware
Fairmont Creamery	Waconion, The
Fairchild's Cash Grocery	Waco Cafe
Farmers Grocery Co.	Waco Farmers Grain Co.
Farmers & Traders Bank	Waco Lumber Co.
Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co.	Waco State Bank
Pratt & Jackson, elevator	Zweig, Frank, Blue Vale Shop

The Waconion of September 9, 1920, gave the following account of the Waco festival held on that day:

A Partial Résumé of the Day, the Guests and the Entertainers

It couldn't well have been better only by having more of it. Many were here from neighboring towns, and especially did York, Utica and Thayer send good delegations.

Below is as complete a detail of amusements and winners as we are able to give, and in case of omission, should there be omissions, the omitted will kindly remember that the omission was unintentional.

At 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, three out-of-town gentlemen were selected to put a guess as to our numbers—and barring their own identity, said "2,500."

Baseball—Singles defeat the married.

Tug-of-war—Town defeats country.

Girls' potato race—Irene Salmon, first; Ruth Everts, second.

Foot race, free for all—Professor Jones, York, first; Leo V. Bedford, second.

Foot race, boys 16—John Tharp, first; Tom Gairdner, second.

Foot race, boys 12—Jess Tharp, first; Morris Fisher, second.

Fat man's race—O. E. Miller, first; Adam Biehl, second.

Old man's race—Theo Carroll, first; James Thomas, second.

Climbing greased pole—First four winners: Jess Tharp, Lee Campbell, Tom Hobson and John Tharp, \$1 each for their alacrity.

Horseshoe champion—Ralph Wellman.

Young ladies' baseball throw—Ruth Thomas, first; Esther Beckord, second.
Standing jump, free for all—Lester Everhart, first; Professor Jones, second.
Backing auto around three barrels—Arch Trollope, only contestant.

MC COOL JUNCTION

This enterprising town was started in March, 1887. There had been a store in this neighborhood some time before and was called Niota. The town site was laid out by the railroad engineer upon the land that had been owned by Lewis C. Klinzman and which had been selected as the town site. Buckmaster & Knight were the abstracters. The town site was laid out first on the southwest quarter of section 18, township 9, range 2, west of 6th P. M. Since then eighty acres in Hays Township on the west have been made an addition.

McCool Junction is beautifully located on the banks of the West Blue River in the Blue River Valley and has one of the finest natural parks found in the state, and is a great resort for class day, school and Sunday school picnics. The village formerly had a saloon, but by the effort of the good people of the place, greatly assisted by the Catholic Church, rid themselves of the saloon, and the village has been built up and improved till it is one of the nicest little towns in the county, full of enterprise, and, surrounded as it is by a rich farming district, enjoys a good healthy business in all its lines of industry. The first village officers were: J. J. Gilmore, W. E. Butler, James Grier, H. Tolles and Thomas Henahan. Its officers in 1913 were: Frank Montgomery, Arthur Marshall, Lewis Walbrecht, Lloyd Hays and Emmitt Finney.

The town was named after General Manager McCool of the K. C. & O. Railroad. The first building in the town was built by Doctor Sedgwick of York. It was a frame building which he rented to Isaac Bagnell, who conducted a drug store there for years. It is still standing and is now used for a drug store owned by Doctor Morris. The first house was erected by H. H. Tolles and is still standing. The second house was built by Tom Williams and the third by Joe Dean, which are still standing. Among the next few business buildings erected were those of Alfred Corey, William Butler and Mr. Vanderhoof.

The first blacksmith shop in the village was started by H. H. Tolles, who is still a resident of the place. W. R. Vanderveer built the first grain elevator, and the Nebraska & Iowa Grain Company followed in this business. Among the first merchants who started general merchandise stores were Vanderveer, Vanderhoof, Bagnell and Thomas Henahan. C. E. Hart conducts the restaurant at the present time. There is another one which has been run by eighteen different people during the seventeen years Mr. Hart has been here. The first hotel was built by Charles Carpenter and was rented to a tenant. This building still stands, and the post-office is now located in it. The first lumber yard was established by York people and was managed by William Sweet. The present yard is owned by the J. H. Yost Lumber Company, with C. S. Sparr as manager. The first harness shop was owned by George Howe, but the harness line is now handled by J. J. Nahrgang. The town has never had an exclusive dry goods, clothing or shoe store. These lines have always been handled by the general merchant. The first hardware store was conducted by Graves & Mulligan. J. D. Stone is the only man who has ever conducted a repair and machine shop here. The first telephone company was a local company

with eighteen members. The York Telephone Company now conducts this exchange. For waterworks the town has always relied on the old Blue River and bucket brigade. The town once had its own light plant, but is now supplied from York. William Carey had the first meat market. The first newspaper was the McCool Record by Albin & Nottson. The press in McCool has been the Blue Valley Journal, with L. L. Slagel as its present proprietor. The first implement store was that of Graves & Mulligan, the only one now is Farmers Co-operative Association. Mrs. Thomas Henahan started the millinery line which is now handled by Mrs. J. A. Dunsmore. Isaac Bagnell installed the first drug store, which is now conducted by T. F. Knapp. The first liveryman in the town was named Paxton. The town now has none. The first cream station was the Fairmont Creamery; the town now has five. McCool's four churches are the United Brethren, English Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic. A more complete history of these institutions is given in the church chapter of this work. The first bank was started by Henry Musselman in 1887. The next bank was the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The postmasters have been: First, George Ingalls; second, Thomas Henahan; third, William McFadden; fourth, Charles S. Gregg; fifth, Irene Henahan, and sixth and present one, Mrs. Hettie Stone.

The original school was District No. 83, and is now a regular high school with twelve grades and seven teachers. Mrs. Morrison is superintendent.

The present town board and officers (in 1920) are: C. E. Hart, chairman; W. R. Anderson, D. W. Roth, E. Robinson, and J. N. Kagy.

The present business houses in McCool Junction are:

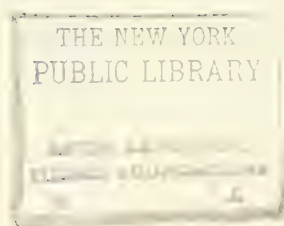
Restaurant.....	C. E. Hart
Drugs.....	F. J. Knapp
Implements.....	Farmers Co-operative Association
General merchandise.....	J. A. Dunsmore
Harness and auto supplies.....	J. J. Nahrgang
General merchandise.....	D. W. Roth
Blue Valley Journal.....	L. L. Slagel
Hardware.....	I. B. Wright
Beatrice Creamery.....	Ed Wilcox
Fairmont Creamery.....	Ellen McIntosh
Restaurant.....	Mrs. Crisp
Farmers and Merchants Bank.....	W. W. Seng, President
Hardware.....	E. E. Lincoln
Independent Creamery.....	Elmer Long
Butcher Shop.....	H. F. Freeman
Garage and repairs.....	Joe Stone
J. H. Yost Lumber Co.....	C. S. Sparr, Manager
Van Wickle Grain Co.....	Ed Robinson
Farmers Co-operative Association, grain and coal.....	J. E. Finney

But four men are living here now who were here when the town started: Thomas Henahan, H. H. Tolles, Ed Wilcox and Dr. F. S. Morris.

The first white child born in McCool was Nellie Bagnell, and the first boy born was Robert Grover Grier.



VIEWS OF MAIN STREET, MCCOOL



The fraternal societies which have organized lodges in McCool Junction are Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, M. W. A., Royal Neighbors, and the A. O. U. W. formerly had a lodge here. The first teachers after the town and the store was established in the village were Bashie Fouse and J. H. Grier.

McCool Lodge, No. 346, I. O. O. F., was organized in 1911 by J. J. Nahrgang. It has a membership of seventy-five. The present officers are: Ed Green, N. G.; I. B. Wright, V. G., and L. L. Slagel, secretary.

Lankens Camp, No. 834, M. W. A., of McCool was organized in 1887. Present membership is one hundred seventy. Present officers: C. E. Hart, V. C.; N. E. Baker, W. A.; J. J. Nahrgang, clerk.

Farmers and Merchants Bank of McCool was organized in 1904, with a capital of \$10,000; E. E. Lincoln, president; W. C. Smith, vice president, and W. W. Seng, cashier. The first place of business was the real estate office of Mr. Seng. In 1911 the present brick building was erected and the bank reorganized with a capital of \$15,000 and a surplus of \$3,000; W. W. Seng, president; N. L. Seng, vice president, and W. L. Seng, cashier. These constitute the board of directors.

The Blue River Bank of McCool Junction was established in 1887 by Henry Musselman, who was the sole owner. George W. Post, who was once district judge, was the next president, he being succeeded by Charles A. McCloud. T. W. Smith is vice president and has been for many years. The cashiers have been: A. B. Christian, Ralph Stanley, A. L. Moore, and R. F. Lord. The present board of directors: Charles A. McCloud, president; T. W. Smith, vice president; R. F. Lord, cashier; R. R. Copsey, George H. Holderman. The first banking house was a frame on the south side of the street. Present brick building was erected more than twenty years ago.

The Catholic Church was erected about fifteen years ago. About thirty families among its communicants. Present priest is Father John A. Hayes, residing here.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church of McCool. This organization belongs to the General Synod Lutheran body and was organized March 11, 1900, at a meeting held in the Baptist Church, Rev. H. L. Yarger, field secretary of the Board of Church Extensions, being present. The congregation organized with thirty-six charter members. The first deacons were: W. W. Seng and A. C. Dreier, for two years; E. C. Gilliland and W. C. Helms, for one year. Elders, Louis Walbrecht and C. W. Miller, September 4, 1900. Rev. H. A. Wolfe was called to preach and was called to serve them regularly as pastor every two weeks. Meetings continued to be held in the Baptist Church until the new church was dedicated, April 6, 1902. The church cost \$3,600 and \$2,700 had been raised by subscription, the balance of \$900 raised the day of dedication. The building committee was composed of H. A. Wolfe, W. W. Seng, Louis Walbrecht, A. C. Dreier and Frank Wilson. Rev. A. W. Wolfe resigned in March, 1907. Rev. George Mendenhall then served this congregation from June 6, 1908, to July 11, 1909; Rev. J. B. Guiney, December 1, 1909, to October 9, 1910; Rev. J. H. Richard, from March 1, 1911, to November 13, 1912; Rev. M. D. Berg, from April 1, 1913, to March 1, 1915; Rev. T. A. Lowe, from March 13, 1915, to June 19, 1916; Rev. T. C. Fitting, April 15, 1917, to April 15, 1918; George N. Mendenhall, June 30, 1918, to September 15, 1919. This congregation has had no regular pastor since 1919, but still has a membership of about one hundred, with a good Sunday school of one hundred thirty enrolled. Miss Myrtle Nahrgang is superintendent.

The United Brethren Church was moved into McCool from the country. It formerly stood in Hays Township, about seven miles southwest of McCool. This happened, as near as can be determined, in 1889 or 1890.

The first minister to serve after this was Rev. U. G. Brown. Rev. A. R. Caldwell was the last regular pastor, closing a four years' charge September, 1920. At the present time Mr. Weimer, a student of York College, is acting as pastor, and has been engaged for six months. This congregation has a membership of one hundred, with a Sunday school membership of one hundred fifty. Miss Jessie Wholstenholm is superintendent.

First M. E. Church, McCool Junction. The first Methodist class in the vicinity of McCool Junction was organized in a sod church house on George Fair's place, two and a half miles west of town, with seven charter members, in the winter of 1870. The pastor, Reverend Henderson, came from Grafton. George Fair and wife, Jefferson Shipley and wife and son Newton, — Hawthorn and wife constituted the class. Hays and family came in October, 1871, and united with the class. Alonzo Larkins, a local preacher, lived in the neighborhood on a farm and acted as pastor for a time. G. M. Jones served also as pastor.

But there is no consecutive church history on record until September, 1872, when D. S. Davis was appointed to West Blue Circuit. It seems that Charleston, Pleasant Hill and Grafton were included in the circuit. In 1884 G. A. Hobson was made pastor, and two years later the name was changed to York Circuit and J. M. Bullard was made pastor. In 1887 the name was changed to McCool Junction and A. L. Folden became pastor. Two years later G. L. Horsford was appointed to the circuit, and in 1891 he was followed by George M. Dorsey. In 1893 the circuit was again changed to Charleston and R. M. Smith was made pastor, and one year later he was followed by H. Richcreek. In 1895 the name was changed back to McCool Junction, with H. V. Price pastor. Then came George W. Ayres, W. R. Crisp, D. W. Wilt, and O. L. Burr, each with a pastorate of one year, except the last, who served two years. Then there were three pastors with one year each: David Fetz, A. E. Totten and George Wash. Then in 1904 Moses Anderson became pastor and during his pastorate a church and parsonage were erected and largely paid for. In September, 1906, W. R. Peters became pastor, and one year later H. C. Claycomb. He served three years and was followed by S. T. Walker, who also served three years. Then E. S. Burr and E. Silverbrand each served one year. In September, 1915, R. B. E. Hill was made pastor. A union revival meeting was held early in the winter that brought a large number into the church. At that time a church basement was put in. He was followed by D. C. Winship in October, 1917. During his pastorate a debt of two hundred dollars was cleared, and then the church was painted on the exterior. In August and September, 1918, a union meeting was held in a tent with the Goodale Brothers in charge, that reached the whole community and brought a large number into the church membership.

The following is from a record by Moses Anderson:

"I commenced work on this charge October 1, 1904. The charge had no home for their pastor and houses were so scarce that we could not rent, so the only thing to do was to build. We started a subscription for the new parsonage, and by the eleventh of January, 1905, we moved into our new home. We were pushing the new M. E. Church enterprise of McCool. At conference time, in September, 1905, we have let the contract for our new church. The building committee, Moses

Anderson, Thomas Marshall, M. E. Boren and Ed Russell. Corner-stone was laid December 4, 1905."

The present pastor (October, 1920) is Rev. S. E. Smutz. Church membership is 137. Sunday school enrollment is 130. Superintendent, C. L. Sparr.

The following account of the young McCool, published in 1887, will serve to illustrate the optimistic self-estimate a very young town was wont to place upon itself in those days.

McCool Junction—A Seven-Weeks-Old Town That Is the Wonder of the Age—Its Business Men and Business Prospects.

During the past winter the Town of McCool Junction was platted. The town site comprises 240 acres of the prettiest portion of York County and is located on the southwest quarter of section 18, township 9, range 2, in McFadden Township and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 13, township 9, range 3, in Hays Township. The portion of the town site in Hays Township was originally owned by J. J. Gilmore, who still retains one-half of the lots in the west eighty acres of the town site. This part of McCool is destined to be the residence portion of the future city and perhaps great railroad junction. The land being a gentle raise above the business part of town and commanding a beautiful view of the West Blue and the surrounding country. The part of the town in McFadden Township was owned by D. C. Kuns and Lewis Kleinzman, who still retain their interest in one-half the lots. The Kansas City & Omaha Railroad passes through this end of town, and the result is that a business center is rapidly being established. This 160 acres is surveyed into both business and residence lots and a large number of desirable purchases have been made by men of means who are improving their ventures with costly and substantial business houses.

Seven weeks ago the first ground was broken to put in a set of scales to weigh corn, and now fully forty buildings are completed and occupied by as live and energetic a set of business men as ever boomed a town. A number of grocery and provision stores are established, two banks, two drug stores, two butcher shops, livery stable, grain and coal offices, lumber yard, blacksmith shops, two bakeries, a restaurant, a first-class hardware store, a barber, a practicing physician, a number of painters, carpenters and tradesmen are already located and doing a lively and paying business.

McCool Junction is located eight miles due south of York and is nine miles from Fairmont, and is located in the center of a large scope of territory, comprising the best and richest farming district of Nebraska. The territory adjacent to McCool is sure to become the point where the business of all this vast scope of rich territory will be transacted.

The Kansas City and Omaha Railroad, which is being built through this town, have placed their junction at McCool, the line to Fairfield in the southwest and the line to Fairmont and Fairbury on the southeast join at this place. The officials of the road have taken a deep interest in this junction and hold large property interests there, which is good evidence that the road intends to make McCool its town. The following is a short review of the business interests now represented:

The Blue River Bank occupies a prominent corner and is owned by wealthy Fairmont parties, and will soon be ready for business.

Walter Fisher, formerly of Bradshaw, has a neat loan and land office and is agent for the town site lots, and does a general land loan and insurance business. Mr. Fisher is entirely trustworthy, and to strangers living at a distance the Democrat can recommend Mr. Fisher as reliable and responsible.

T. W. Smith, agent for the K. C. & O. lots at McCool, is one of the leading men of York County and hitherto a prominent farmer. Mr. Smith was recently chairman of the Board of Supervisors and has filled several positions of trust and importance. He transacts a general land business and will be found worthy of confidence.

A. Brubaker, formerly manager of the York Lumber Company, is in charge of the lumber and coal trade and will be found a gentleman equal to the emergency.

W. R. Vanderveer, formerly of Davenport, is buying grain and now has several hundred thousand bushels of corn in crib, waiting for the first train of the K. C. & O. to take it to market. Mr. Vanderveer is in the grain business also at Benedict, and is a hustler and just the man needed in a new town.

Sedgwick & Bagnell have an elegant new building, well fitted up and filled with a complete stock of drugs, medicines, paints and oils. The firm consists of Dr. Sedgwick, of York, and Mr. I. N. Bagnell, formerly of Bagnell Bros., York. Mr. Bagnell is one of the best prescription clerks in the state. Another drug store, across the street, is operated by S. B. Moberly, who is an old York County boy, having recently embarked in the drug business at Osceola, but being aware of the grand opening at McCool, very wisely located there.

A. G. Corey, formerly postmaster at Blue Valley, has a new building well filled with dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. Mr. Corey is an old hand in the mercantile line and will be one to make business lively at McCool.

W. E. Butler, formerly of Seward, has a first-class grocery and carries a complete line of everything known to the grocery, queensware and glassware trade.

Henry Vanderhoof is also a Seward gentleman who has cast his lot at McCool and has a good building well stocked with general merchandise.

G. R. Carey, formerly of York, has a new building completed and will at once begin to deal out fresh and salt meats and do a general butchering business.

Isaac Ong, a farmer living near the town site, has a good substantial building about completed and will also serve beefsteak and everything else connected with that branch of business to the good people of McCool and vicinity.

Mr. Schear, of Davenport, is erecting a large building to be occupied as a confectionery and bakery. Mr. Schear is a practical baker.

William Richter, formerly of York, has a building up, on the west side of the town, and is running a bakery and confectionery.

F. C. Webster, also from York, is running an eating house and restaurant and has at present a monopoly on the business of the town.

W. K. Paxton & Son have a large livery, sale and feed stable and are doing a lively business.

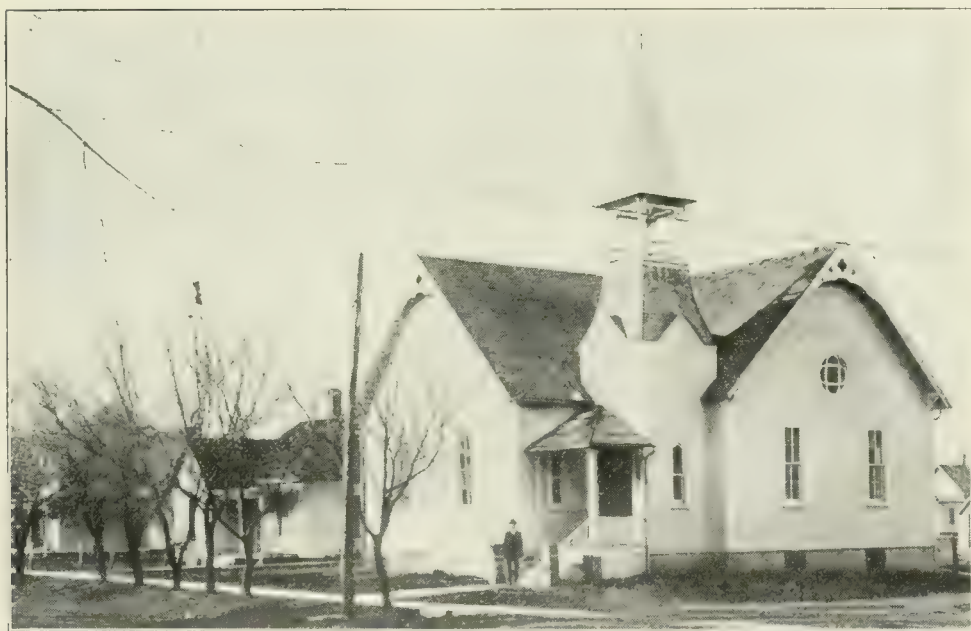
O. Washburn, of York, is operating a branch shop at McCool and is a good carpenter.

Rothmanz, Holden & McFall, house, sign and carriage painters, scenic artists and decorators, do a good business in their line.

Frank S. Morris, physician and surgeon, looks after the aches and ills of the



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MCCOOL



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MCCOOL



community and is a competent young physician, with an office in Sedgwick & Bagnell's drug store.

J. D. Stone, of Friend, is erecting a large two-story building, 44x50, on the land adjoining the town site on the south. This building will be occupied with a bank and a general store.

A. Wallen is operating a grocery store in the south part of town and C. Decious is putting in a boot and shoe shop.

Mulligan & Graves have a large storeroom and carry a well-selected stock of stoves, tinware, shelf and heavy hardware and are doing an immense business. A tonsorial artist has a chair in one of their windows and does the shaving for the town.

Work is progressing rapidly on a new two-story hotel, 44x60 feet. This will be one of the best hotels in the county and will fill a badly felt want at McCool. Messrs. C. N. Carpenter and H. B. Seeley, of York, are the proprietors.

The town is deluged with carpenters, and the noise of the hammer and saw can be heard from morning until late at night. New buildings are daily being started and a general hum of enterprise and prosperity pervades the town. New men and new enterprises and ventures are constantly coming in. Among the many new schemes that may be mentioned is a newspaper which will soon be started. There is no better place for investment in Nebraska, and before ninety days a large and respectable town will grace the spot where two months ago there was not a building to be seen.

GRESHAM

Gresham is in the northeast corner of the county and is laid out mainly in the northwest quarter of section 11, township 12, range 1, in Stewart Township. It is situated on the Chicago & North Western branch that comes into York from David City. There was no town at this site until the railroad went through. The Pioneer Town Site Company laid out the town in August, 1887, upon land belonging to the heirs of Fred Fuller.

The new town was first named Poston, in honor of Judge George W. Post, but its name was afterwards changed because the United States postal authorities refused to accept that name, there being another postoffice in the state with a similar name. It was then named after Walter Q. Gresham, secretary of state in Cleveland's Cabinet.

Levy B. Fuller built the first store building. It was used as a hardware and grocery store, and his son, J. N. Fuller, made the first sale to Doctor Campbell, it being ten cents' worth of tobacco and five cents' worth of candy. The first residences built were those of Levy B. Fuller, Joe Dickenson and N. E. Vansickle, which were all completed about the same time. The next few houses were built by Paul Dullum, W. R. Heines, John Walford, S. A. Toby and Joe Bennett. The next few business buildings were built by A. A. Howley, Ernest Fuller, Byers & Dullum, Hylton & Clem, Thresler & Co., Malone Bros., Walford & Innis, and Diers Bros.

L. B. Fuller ran the first general store about two years and was succeeded by Vick N. Losh.

The first blacksmith shop was started by Alex Landenklos and the next one by E. W. Raikes, to whom Landenklos sold out his shop. Raikes sold out to Adam

Schmidt, who still runs in the old stand, and E. W. Raikes started another shop and is still running it.

The first grain elevators were operated by Lord & Spelts and by B. F. Willis. Lord & Spelts were succeeded by Wm. Davidson, then Davidson was succeeded by Walford & Haines. They sold to Oscar Ragan and the Updike Grain Company succeeded him, and at the present this elevator is run by Ralph Thompson. B. F. Willis was succeeded by B. F. Moorehouse and Moorehouse was succeeded by the Farmers' Co-operative Company, which is running this elevator at the present time. The first lumber yards were started by S. K. Martin & Company and Haines Brothers. S. K. Martin & Company were succeeded by Searle & Chapin Lumber Company, which still runs that yard.

Fred Weitzel started the first harness shop. Ernest Fuller started the first hardware store. Levy B. Fuller put in the first meat market, and G. A. Barbee the second market in the village. Lind and Lash put in the first stock of implements. Kingsolon & Clem started first in the drug store and then R. S. Hirsch. Mary Brown put in the first stock of millinery; she was succeeded by Alice Rokies. This line of business passed successively into the hands of Mrs. Blanch Lamphere and Mrs. W. L. Wade, who is in business at the present. Hien Brothers started the first garage.

Gresham is equipped with the services of modern public utilities. W. N. Hylton put in a light plant; the Village of Gresham owns and operates its own water-works, and the York County Telephone Company has an up-to-date exchange here.

Gresham has responded liberally to the fraternal impulse. Among the orders which have installed lodges or chapters in Gresham are the Masons, Eastern Star, I. O. O. F., Rebekah, M. W. A., W. O. W., A. O. U. W., G. A. R., Sons of Veterans and American Legion. Among those who lived in Gresham in the first few years who are still residents of the town are Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Toby and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Byers, A. A. Hayel and E. W. Raikes.

Gresham, 1914

Barbee, S. A., meat market
Bond, C. A., cream station
Cane & Nebergall, implements
David Young Co., hardware
Diers Bros., general merchandise
Ebensperger, Fritz, meat market
Electric Light & Power Co.
Farmers' Elevator
First National Bank
Fogarty, E. R., drugs
Gresham Gazette
Gresham Hotel
Gresham State Bank
Hawley, A. A., furniture
Hawley, B. L., livery barn

Hillyer, V. A., jewelry
Hirsch, Chas., variety store
Husbands, H. M., hardware
Hylton, W. N., Dr.
Marble & Neujahr, store
Marriott, A. M., hotel
Rogers, C. S., garage
Searle & Chapin Lumber Co.
Schmidt, Adam, blacksmith
Updike Grain Co.
Van Gorden, Fred, merchandise
Warner, Sam, cafe
Williams, F. C., cafe
Wooley, F. W., garage



ELEVATOR AT GRESHAM

Gresham, 1920

Brittall Bros., furniture and undertak-
ing
Brittall, Clarence, Dr.
Cane, L. H., & Son, implements
Cane's Garage
Clem, A. L., general merchandise
Conrad, D. L., drugs
Diers, Herman, general merchandise
Ebensperger, Fritz, meat market
Electric Light & Power Co.
Farmers' Union Store
First National Bank
Ford Service Station
Gresham Garage
Gresham Gazette
Gresham Grain Co.

Gresham High School
Gresham State Bank
Harris, meat market
Harris & Warner, Drs.
Henriksen, A., variety store
Hillyer, V. A., jewelry
Husbands & Hawley, hardware
Hylton, W. N., Dr.
Johnson, A. F., Dr.
Richter Hardware Co.
Searle & Chapin Lumber Co.
Schmidt, Adam, blacksmith
Standard Oil Co.
Tompkins, R. L., grain elevator
Warner, F. W., Dr.

THAYER HISTORY

By a Thayerite

Thayer is beautifully situated on the south side of Lincoln Creek in Thayer Township and was platted in 1887. The land for the village was purchased from David Price, an old homesteader, who has sold his farm and is now retired to a residence in Thayer.

The village has a population of 200.

The first schoolhouse in district No. 9, which is Thayer school, stood west of the present school site, and was remodeled as a dwelling house and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Pegan. In this old schoolhouse Sunday school and church services were held in the early days before the town existed. The second schoolhouse was a two story structure with two rooms, which was moved to the present location in Thayer. This was replaced about two years ago by a fine new four room school building of two stories. Three teachers are now employed and eleven grades taught. A number of pupils from surrounding districts attend Thayer high school. The second old building, sold at public auction, was bought by A. E. Grobe and remodeled into a dwelling house.

The Thayer Flouring Mill, which is operated by water power from Lincoln Creek, was in operation before the town was built. It had several changes of ownership, but for the past ten years has been owned and worked in an efficient manner by A. A. Tharp. Mr. Tharp also has his own electric light plant, for the mill and his residence, run by water power. Several times the mill dam gave way at the time of the spring freshet when the ice was breaking up, and an immense deluge of water and huge sections of ice with a rush and roar charged against it. But a few years ago Mr. Tharp put in an immense concrete dam that seems to be impregnable. At the proper season Mr. Tharp cuts ice from the mill pond, and people come from far and near to get their ice to pack for summer use.

The first general store was built and operated by a Mr. Webster, who also acted as postmaster, mail at first being received only twice a week. Later Mr. Kline entered a partnership with Mr. Webster and the stock of goods was moved into a larger building where Mr. Kline remained until 1911.

E. R. Eckles, who had been in a general store with his brother Joe Eckles, was appointed postmaster in 1903, and he still handles Uncle Sam's mail in connection with his hardware store. Mrs. Eckles is manager of the telephone exchange.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was completed and the depot built during the spring of 1887. Wm. Stine has been the genial agent for nearly fifteen years. Mr. Stine has initiated five Thayer boys into the mysteries of telegraphy and other depot work: Martin Eckles, who now has a permanent position in Colorado; Logan Eckles and Ernest Wutke, who go out as relief agent and helper; Archie Gaskill, the present apprentice; and Arnel Halstead, who is again attending the high school.

Two elevators, the Updike Company, which also installed a lumber yard, and the Van Wickle, were soon on the ground and ready for business. M. V. Koons was manager of the Van Wickle elevator for many years, and after an absence of a few years is now manager for the Farmers' Grain Association, which bought out the Van Wickle Company about five years ago. Andrew Sinnamark was manager of the Updike Company for many years, and L. C. Keller is the present manager.

Wm. Jones operated the first hotel; later Wm. Owens was the proprietor, and after changing hands several times a hotel and restaurant is now run by Bert Halstead.

The first hardware store was built by Wm. Hohnbaum, but Joe Hower, the present hardware man, has had the business for over ten years.

Otto Wutke was proprietor of the first harness and repair shop, which after several years he sold and accepted the position of cashier of the Thayer Bank.

The first village blacksmith in Thayer was Mr. Peterson, followed by Wm. Kallehan. The present blacksmith, Jake Keller, has been here a number of years and also owns the garage building adjoining.

The barber shop is managed by E. N. Henson, assisted by Irwin Grobe.

Schmidt and Mueller have been in the general merchandise business here about seven years and have a good trade. Frank Randall was the first druggist, and "he was a good one, too," said one of the old settlers the other day. The present druggist, Albert Sharp, has been here over seven years.

Soon after the town was platted, the town site company donated the location for a church, and the Methodist Church was built the same year. The German Lutheran Church was erected a few years later. This building was destroyed by fire, and the Lutheran people bought a country church west of town, moved it to their building site, and by adding to it made a splendid church. They now have a fine pipe organ. The Presbyterian Church was built about fifteen years ago and they have since finished up a basement and installed a furnace.

Thayer has an electric light plant and the streets and almost all the residences are lighted with electricity. Among the improvements of recent date are two fine modern homes, farm cottages and the cement block business building and opera house of W. C. Heiden, the implement dealer.

The close proximity of the town to Lincoln Creek, which by the mill dam is changed into a river, makes this a fine place for a summer resort. The picnic

grounds on the R. B. Price land by the creek have fine large shade trees, and a well has been sunk for the accommodation of picnickers. Many parties come from surrounding communities for fishing, boating and general pleasure seeking.

An excellent band of about twenty instruments is an asset in which our people take great pride. During last summer an evening concert was given once a week. We have the Royal Neighbors, M. W. A. and W. O. W. lodges; also a local moving picture machine which is operated two evenings of the week for the entertainment of the people.

The business men of 1920 in Thayer were:

Thayer Exchange	Heiden, W. C., implements
Bank of Thayer	Horsfall, C. M., general merchandise
Eckles, E. R., hardware	Octavia Lumber and Grain Co.
Farmers State Bank	Schroeder's Cash Store
Farmers' Grain Association	Thayer Garage

BENEDICT

Benedict was incorporated in 1890 with J. W. Downing as chairman and G. M. Douglass as clerk. The board was: J. W. Downing, O. D. Keeler, Walter Scott, Robt. Cavender and Cris Sparling. Scott and Cavender are now deceased. The board in 1903 was: W. J. Degraw, chairman; P. F. Conant, B. J. Huff, F. C. Wirth and James Marvel, with M. L. Cavender as clerk. A. Schneider has the credit of serving fourteen years on the board and eight years as chairman.

The first school taught in Benedict was by Frank Slagle; R. B. Brabham was director.

In the winter of 1886-7 bonds were voted by Morton Township to aid the Kansas City & Omaha Railroad, and in January, 1887, there were slight evidences along the right of way on section 13 that a town was to be started there. A small grain office and scoophouse were the first and for two months the only buildings. This village was named in honor of E. C. Benedict, president of the K. C. & O. Railroad. John Lett and the firm of Oughton & Stillwell drove into town the same day and same hour, the one from the west and the other from the east. These men built houses at once for their business and also as residences for their families. Mr. Lett went into the hotel business and Oughton & Stillwell opened the first grocery store. The Eckles building, adjoining the hotel, was put up at the same time and used at once and for years after by the firm of Knott & Sparling, our first general merchandise dealers. These were followed by Miller & Downing, hardware; S. M. French, restaurant and confectionery; Baum, the druggist. In the meantime, Dr. J. A. Van Dyke located and at once picked up a large practice, and proved to be a fine physician. Mr. Levens erected a billiard hall on the site of the present residence of F. M. Brabham. James Stoddard erected a building north of the livery barn of C. E. Anderson, and Barney Davis put up a second billiard hall. These buildings were afterward moved south onto Sherman Street. Stoddard's building is now occupied by J. B. Marvel as a restaurant, and the other was owned and occupied for some years by J. B. Johnson, but had fallen into decay and was torn away to make room for a better building.

Frank McConaughy opened the first bank, with B. B. Crownover as cashier.

The place now contains two banks, the First National and the Farmers State Bank. Martin & Crownover were the first firm engaged in shipping live stock. Martin (Lee) died on his farm one mile south of Benedict, May 17, 1893. Mr. Crownover (Elmer B.) resided upon a farm which he has sold to H. A. Johnson for \$204 per acre. This lies adjoining the village on the west, and was formerly the home of Henry Harrington.

On Sunday, June 27, 1887, the first train, a construction train, pulled into our little village; there was a large concourse of people from the surrounding country to see it, and great was the rejoicing that now we could go to York without driving a team. The town site had been taken off the farms of E. B. Crownover and Henry Harrington—sixty acres from each. George Kenyon erected a blacksmith shop and a residence, Joe Downey a residence, and S. P. Stryker a small hardware store, in which he lived until able to put up a residence on the block now owned by H. W. Hoffmaster, Sr. Here the first child born in Benedict first saw the light—Miss Alta Stryker, now a lady of some thirty summers. The doctor built him a cosy home, where at present the M. E. parsonage stands. C. H. Dovenbarger erected a livery barn on the southwest corner of the block on which Dr. Karrer later built a fine residence. Later Fairman & Harrington opened a general store on the west side of the railroad, east of the present residence of O. B. Canfield. In August R. B. Brabham came to town from his farm and took upon himself the duties of postmaster, which office he held during the remainder of President Cleveland's first term, and was followed by John Lett, who in turn gave way to Mr. Brabham again, when, in 1892, Mr. Cleveland defeated Harrison for a second term. In 1896, however, the scales turned again, and John Lett was returned to power. He remained postmaster for some time.

In the fall of 1887 John Lett was elected justice of the peace and served for six years, or to January, 1894, when J. E. Hoover succeeded him and held the office for several years; and woe unto the man who fell into his clutches if proven guilty of any serious misdemeanor!

Benedict owns its electric light and water plant, thus making a little money on the side for the village. Its plant has been acknowledged to be among the best to be found outside of the larger cities of the state.

Benedict very early had three fraternal lodges, the Modern Woodmen, A. O. U. W., and Degree of Honor. These orders in 1907, with the help of some public-spirited citizens, erected a fine fraternal building on the main street of the town, and all are justly proud of their Fraternal Hall, which cost \$3,000, and was begun without a dollar in the treasury.

The Presbyterian congregation had in 1884 built a church near the cemetery two miles west of the town. This building and the parsonage were moved in the summer of 1889, and the Lutheran people erected their church the same year. Rev. B. F. Sharp, of York, was the first Presbyterian pastor, and Reverend Schneur was the first Lutheran pastor. The Methodist people built some years later, with the Rev. D. M. Buckner as their first pastor.

Mr. Vanderveer built a large grain elevator; Mr. Stryker also went into this business, and A. L. Sprague built a fine elevator north of the depot. These three grain firms went out of business, and James & Brother purchased the Vanderveer plant, which is yet in operation under the management of the Hastings Grain Company, N. G. Ensey, manager. The other elevators were taken down and



STREET SCENE, HENDERSON



MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST, BENEDICT

removed to points in Kansas. The farmers some ten years ago met and organized the Farmers' Grain Association, erecting a large elevator, which has done a good business every year, paying a better price for grain than any of the surrounding towns had been paying, and also paying an eight per cent dividend each year. The elevator has been under the management of A. J. Houston nearly ever since it was completed. R. E. McConahaughy put in a lumber yard here in 1888, which passed into the hands of the Rogers Lumber Company, and which was bought out by the Benedict Lumber & Fuel Association, another organization formed by the farmers. This proved to be a great success financially. In 1907, on the 15th of April, the six buildings on the south half of the block 22, on Sherman Street, were destroyed by fire. A very heavy wind was blowing from the northwest, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the southeast quarter of the town was saved. The postoffice and Miss Lett's queensware stock, the barber shop, drug store, R. B. Brabham's building and stock and the building and hardware stock of C. H. Dovenbarger were destroyed, with some salvage on the stocks. Mr. Dovenbarger built a fine brick store building on his lot, and S. J. Parker built a brick building on the site of the barber shop, which is the home of the village club.

HENDERSON

The Town of Henderson is situated in the southwest part of York County in the very northwest corner of Henderson Township. It is less than one mile east of the York and Hamilton County line on the Northwestern Railroad line through the county. It was laid out on Will Chapman's land by the town site company when the railroad went through in 1888.

The following article, which was prepared by the staff of the York New Teller and published in the January 23, 1918, number of that paper, gives a very thorough history of this charming community.

When the first German people who left Prussia in the year 1874 and settled here there were but few pioneers on the plain known now as York and Hamilton counties. When our parents settled here they had to haul all of their grain to Sutton or York, which was quite a task. No Henderson was in sight at that time, but in the year 1887 when the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was built through here it was at this time the little village of Henderson sprang up, in the midst of this wide prairie. Some of the old pioneers who lived in this vicinity at that time were the following travelers: Cropsey, Westgate, Bray, Triesen, Regier, Epp, Henderson, Pankrapz, Janzen, Huebert, Abrahams, and others.

The village was built on section 6 of Henderson Township on land here which was owned by Cornelius Regier, and it was talked that the village should be called Regier, but no, Regier Brothers suggested that it be called Henderson, in honor of the old pioneer, David Henderson (father of Robert Henderson of York).

Thirty years ago, about the time of the great blizzard, the first houses of this town were being built, of which some still exist; the town has been growing ever since, not as fast as many other towns have, but it has kept pace with the average small towns of but a few stores and dwellings and has grown to be a village of four hundred and fifty or five hundred inhabitants. It has about one hundred and fifty dwelling houses, two elevators, one flour and feed store, two implement stores, one harness shop, three hardware stores, two garages, one clothing store, three

general merchandise stores, one meat market, one hotel, one restaurant, one drug store, one blacksmith shop, town hall, telephone exchange, waterworks system with a stand pipe and tank about one hundred feet and about twenty-five feet of pipe. The town is lighted by electricity. There are about twenty-five farm lines of telephone that are being connected to the central office and probably over one hundred phones in the village, and in all there are about four hundred phones that have access to the central office. There is a high school building consisting of about ten rooms. It has a basement and two stories. This school has five teachers employed and the grades from first to eleventh are taught, and the enrollment is about one hundred and fifty in all of the different grades.

There are also two churches in the town. One has a membership of over four hundred and the other has about seventy-five to one hundred members. Both churches are of the Mennonite denomination. Those who cannot understand the German language have only the Sunday school and Bible Union which are conducted in English. The services are held at the German schoolhouse. The Henderson Gesang Verein (Henderson Choral Society) was organized in the year 1913. It has been very successfully managed for the last five years. At present it has a membership of sixty-six voices. Professor Amadon of York College has charge of the work this year. The meetings are held on every Friday evening. The work is generally begun in September and lasts until in April. This last Christmas the cantata "Peace on Earth" was given at Bethsada Church. Fifty-three voices took part. At Easter the cantata "The Conqueror" was given. Those interested in the society have sacrificed their time and their finances, which were the two most important factors to make it a success.

A new town hall of cement blocks was erected last summer, which cost something over two thousand dollars. A hose cart with 500 feet of hose and with other tools to fight fire have been in use for the last ten years. The fire bell is on a tower and a flag is above the bell.

For many years the town had a saloon, but for the last seven or eight years it has been without such a place, and the pool hall has also been done away with for the past three or four years. Since the town site company has bought the land north of the railroad track and laid it out into lots of about an acre each some very beautiful dwellings have been built on the north side of the town.

Herman Snyder ran one of the first stores on the east side of the town, where the present Peter Ratzleff store is now located. John Harms put in a store in the M. W. A. Building, where J. J. Fast is now in business. J. J. Peters ran an early store, which was sold to D. D. Epp. The Updike Grain Company started the earliest lumber and coal yard and elevator business. The Octavia Lumber Company started a second yard a few years ago, and the J. H. Yost Company took over the old Updike lumber yard. Mr. Cheesman started another early elevator, which a Mr. Anthony later ran; after being closed, the second elevator business in town was replaced by the Farmers' Elevator Company. The first blacksmith shop was run by Pierce Ball, and A. Peters installed the first garage. Russell Vining started a drug store, which also later closed out.

The town was incorporated on October 4, 1899, with A. E. Newbold, Peter Goosen, D. H. Pessman, D. J. Kroecker, J. B. Funk, and A. France as first trustees.

Among the most recent businesses in town are: Friessen Brothers' general store;

J. P. Pauley Lumber Company; G. W. Friessen's store, successor of the Williams Clothing Company branch store here; Janzen Brothers, hardware and grocery; D. D. Wines, implements, and E. K. Kusch's meat market.

LUSHTON

Lushton is built on section 25, township 9, range 4, in Henderson Township and was surveyed and built in the spring of 1888, when the railroad came through to McCool Junction from Sutton. The board or village trustees were A. Holmes, chairman; M. W. Strater, A. Cookus, M. D. Calkins, T. C. Williams, with Ed Allison as clerk and Homer Hager as treasurer. The Kansas City & Omaha was put through here in the spring of 1887. The first general store was built in Lushton by Dorsey Brothers, who came down from Arborville. They operated this store but one year, when they sold to Dailey & Farber, who carried on the business for about ten years. In the summer of 1887 Mr. Albert Holmes built a general store building and in connection with his store took charge of the postoffice, which he conducted until a little more than three years ago, when on account of ill health he sold to Howard Dearing, who, in partnership with his mother, Mrs. E. T. Dearing, operated the store for a short while, when they sold out to Jacob Epp & Son. Mr. Holmes had always been identified with the business interests of the village and was greatly missed by the people of the community when he passed away after a short illness. Mr. William Babcock was also in the mercantile business for several years. In the fall of 1887 the farmers were highly elated over having a grain market at their very doors, the first grain being brought in at that time. In October, 1887, J. J. Burras and C. N. Kincaid of Lincoln organized the first lumber company and were soon ready for business. That business was soon purchased by Mr. M. B. Thompson, who had helped to shovel the first load of grain in Lushton, and it was successfully operated by him for a number of years, and was finally taken over by the Yost Lumber Company. The first hardware store in Lushton was built and operated by C. D. Walters; Edward Moore ran the first drug store. William Cookus put in the first blacksmith shop, but at present has relinquished the pounding of iron for more convenient work. The first hotel was a two-story frame building on the east side of the main store, and was built and operated by Mr. William Walters. The State Bank of Lushton was the first and only bank in Lushton, and was organized in the spring of 1887 by George and Tom Clawson. Although a small town, the ladies knew the magnetism establishment, so Mrs. Susan Daily started a shop and sold millinery for a good many years. In 1888 the first elevator was built and operated by Will R. Vanderburg.

The United Brethren Church was the first church to grace the village of Lushton, and it was moved in from the country.

The store operated by Daily & Farber was later bought by M. W. Strater, who was a successful merchant, full of ambition; he was one of the liveliest merchants of his time. In February, 1913, he retired from business, having sold out to Franz Bros., who have also been very successful. Early on the morning of March 5, 1913, the people of Lushton were awakened from peaceful slumber by a call of fire. The entire town was in danger, but luckily through the change of wind only one block of the business section was burned to the ground. The buildings

demolished were a restaurant, hardware store, cream station, and millinery store. Several other buildings were damaged. However, the citizens were not to be discouraged. On the corner lot a large brick building was erected in 1915 by the firm of Jacob Epp & Son, who are operating a successful mercantile establishment. The population of Lushton is about two hundred; it is in the midst of a thriving farming district. Besides its two general mercantile stores it now has two hardware stores, two cream stations, a drug store, a furniture and undertaking establishment, a meat market, a barber shop, central office, confectionery, garage and livery, lumber yard, school house, large, neatly kept hotel, which has just been opened again, a new blacksmith shop, recently erected by Mr. McNutt. Lushton has had two churches, but for the past year services were held only in the United Brethren Church. These churches are kept up by the Needlecraft Society, Ladies Aid and Missionary Society. Just at present the ladies are very enthusiastic workers in the Red Cross, and this little chapter has done some very good work. The men also have their amusement in the commercial rooms, where they may play checkers, dominoes and chess, and there is also a library in connection with it. The Modern Woodmen also were well represented by many good times. The band gives concerts every Saturday evening during the summer months from the band stand in the center of town. Through the winter the community has usually had a lecture course held in the United Brethren Church.

The business men of Lushton are a live bunch. Mr. E. Le Bar, the druggist, came to Nebraska from eastern Iowa about forty years ago. Jacob Epp & Son started in business in Lushton in 1915 and have built a fine brick building, 70x30, with modern front.

Lincoln & Tharp have a thoroughly up-to-date hardware and harness establishment. Emmitt Lincoln is the son of the veteran merchant of McCool. Clifford Tharp came to Lushton from Chicago. Franz Brothers have been in Lushton for five years. J. M. Sigrist came in 1901. Six years ago he went up to Theadford, Thomas County, and homesteaded, but returned to Lushton and bought the furniture and undertaking establishment of Y. R. Miles, the Lushton representative of Metz & Hitchcock of York.

P. K. Moore, who has lived in Nebraska forty-four years, helped organize the Bank of Lushton, with G. W. Post, E. G. Wightman, C. A. McCloud, now president; T. L. Robinson, cashier. J. H. Yost Lumber Company owned the only yard in Lushton. Hynes Grain Company have Bud Smith as their resident manager. W. P. Cookus can really claim to be the pioneer of Lushton; he built the first frame house, opened a blacksmith shop on April 18, 1887, and can remember all of the country from Grafton to Lushton as a corn field when he came.

Lushton's business roster in 1920 showed:

Bank of Lushton
Dearing, H. P., restaurant
Franz Bros., general merchandise
Haynes Grain Co.
High School
Le Bar, C. R., drug store

Lincoln Tharp Hardware Co.
Prest, Dr. J. E.
Smith, Glenn, Implement Co.
Van Wickle Grain Co.
Walters, Wm., meat market.
Yost Lumber Co.



VIEW OF LUSHTON



PUBLIC SCHOOL, LUSHTON



OTHER POINTS

Like every other county, York County has abounded in a number of towns or trading points where, at times in the past, perhaps two or three stores, a post-office, livery stable, blacksmith shop, church, school, and even a hall and a number of residences have graced the settlement.

The nine incorporated towns and cities of the county have been treated in detail. There remains at this time trading settlements of importance: Charleston, with a railroad station; Blue Vale, a trading center with a wealth of rich lore. A goodly number of towns have come and gone. Such trading centers, which flourished forty years ago, were: Plainfield, just west of present Bradshaw; Pleasant Home, Danby, preceding Benedict; Creswell, preceding Gresham; Thayer was long an inland point, Palo was a post-office as early as 1871, Westfield, east of the present Waco; Blue Vale, back in the '70s; McFadden, the oldest postoffice in the county; Lisbon, clear to southern edge of the county; Seeley, Dana and Long Hope, in the southwestern corner of the county, and Staplehurst, north of York. Most of these have disappeared from actual participation in affairs long ago, but the reminiscences of the older pioneers bring in references which portray the growth and decay of these points.

CHAPTER VII

COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

NAMING OF YORK COUNTY—THE COURT HOUSE—COUNTY ORGANIZATION—EARLY COUNTY GOVERNMENT—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—COUNTY CLERKS—COUNTY TREASURERS—SHERIFFS—COUNTY ATTORNEYS—COUNTY JUDGES—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS—ASSESSOR-SURVEYOR AND ENGINEERS—CORONERS—CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT—REGISTRAR OF DEEDS—1920 ELECTION AND 1921 OFFICERS.

NAMING OF YORK COUNTY

In looking up early incidents for the Old Settlers' History to be kept in the county judge's office of this county in 1913, the first question was, Why was the county named York? I first wrote to the State Historical Society at Lincoln, but could find no reason from there. I find from A. T. Andreas' history of Nebraska, and from the help of Judge Sedgwick in investigating the journals of the first and second territorial legislatures that met in 1855, that one A. D. Jones, a member of the first territorial Legislature from Douglas County (and, by the way, Omaha was the capital of Nebraska at that date), was chairman of the committee on defining the boundaries and giving names to new counties. Mr. Jones proposed to name the new counties after prominent leaders from each political party: that accounts for the names of Polk, Hamilton, Butler, Fillmore, Clay, and many others. Seward County was first named Green, after a senator who afterwards joined the rebels in 1861, and the good people of Green County petitioned the Legislature and had the name of their county changed to Seward. The journal of the first territorial Legislature of 1855 shows that the north line of York County was the Platte River; the boundary was later changed to include its present boundary.

York County was named by the Legislature of 1855, long before any white man settled here.

I next wrote to A. D. Jones, who seemed to have a good deal to do with laying out and naming new counties in the early day, but the letter was returned, and I learned after that Mr. Jones went to heaven ten years ago. I secured from early records the names of members of the first Legislature and wrote to quite a number and some of the letters were returned uncalled for, and others were answered, stating they could remember nothing of the reason for naming York County. A party suggested that if I write the editor of the Bee, Mr. Rosewater, he could tell me everything, so I wrote, enclosing a stamp, and got no reply, and he is a stamp ahead. I recently wrote to the Public Librarian of Omaha, for Omaha was Mr. Jones' home, and he was very prominent in its early history—in fact, he homesteaded the land where the principal part of Omaha now stands. I thought this Mr. Jones, who named York County, might have come from York, Pa. I received

the following letter, which is the first ray of information as to why this county was named York:

"To M. Sovereign, York, Neb.

"Dear Sir: Your letter regarding information about A. D. Jones has been received, and we find that Alfred D. Jones was born in Philadelphia, January 30, 1814. A Nebraska handbook makes a brief mention that York County was named after York, England, but gives no reason for it. This is all I can find. Am sorry it is so meager.

"Very truly yours,

"BLANCHE HAMMOND,

"Acting Librarian."

THE COURTHOUSE

The following account of the county seat, published in 1886, gives a very comprehensive description of York County's governmental capitol and temple of justice:

The county seat of this county, the City of York, is situated on the B. & M. Railroad at the geographical center of the county, and has a population of 3,000 people, and the county a population of 15,082. York is one of the most thriving little cities west of Lincoln, the capital, and it is said that more refined and educated people reside in this city, according to its size, than any other city in the State of Nebraska. The Board of County Commissioners are erecting a courthouse on the public square, of the value of \$50,000. There will also be erected in the spring a canning factory, and there is in contemplation a factory for the purpose of manufacturing flax straw into tow yarn and making oil from the seed. The U. P. Railroad also proposes extending its line from Stromsburg, by the way of the City of York to Belvidere, in Thayer County, thus giving this city a competing line of railroads. It would be impossible to speak of all the fine business buildings in this city, but will say in general that the dry goods, grocery, hardware, furniture, harness, and other stores are as fine, and carry as complete stocks of goods as will be found in any eastern city. The City of York has a roller flour mill, with a capacity to grind 600 bushels per day, two national banks, the First National Bank of York, and the York National, besides two private banks. The Methodist College, a noble structure, well and liberally patronized by all persuasions, is one of the permanent institutions of this city. This city also has a system of public schools unequalled by any city in the West, with three ample school buildings of the value of \$25,000, which schools are free to all and issue regular graduate papers. The church buildings of this city are a Congregational, of the value of \$15,000; Methodist, of the value of \$30,000; Baptist, of the value of \$10,000; Catholic, of the value of \$3,000; Universalist, of the value of \$5,000; Presbyterian, of the value of \$2,000; Swede Lutheran, of the value of \$2,000; Christian, or Campbellite, of the value of \$2,000. There are published here three weekly newspapers—The York Democrat, democratic in politics; the York Republican, republican in politics, and the York Times, independent in politics, but strongly favoring legislative control of railroads. York County has a delightful climate, fine roads and fine bridges, with a busy and industrious population, with a soil as rich as the Valley of the Nile. Cattle and hogs are fatted and stall-fed by the tens of thousands, and it is

said that no finer stallions and mares can be found in the state than in this county. York County is truly a paradise for thrifty and industrious farmers.

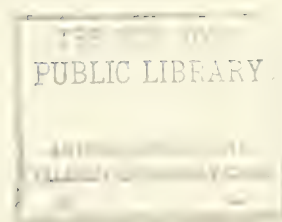
The time for the preparation of this article has been short, and the additional labor so great, that we are unable to give more than a general description, both of the County and City of York. In addition to the above facts, however, which we have been permitted to take from a circular recently issued by Attorney Edward Bates, it might be well to add that arrangements are being made for the immediate construction of several brick business buildings and fine residences. Messrs. Nobes and Cowell are at present engaged in vacating the lots on the south side of the square, between the opera house and Union Block, upon which to erect three brick buildings, two stories high. The First National Bank with other parties are perfecting arrangements to put in three or four buildings on Lincoln Avenue adjoining the bank on the north. Messrs. Armstrong & Wright are also talking of building two rooms on the south of the City Block Building and E. A. Warner has lately let the contract for a very fine residence on East Hill. Work on the canning factory has already begun and it is not at all improbable that the proposition to bond the city in the sum of \$30,000, for a system of water works, will carry at the election next Tuesday. All together, it is evident that our city will experience the largest boom this year ever before witnessed.

The fine courthouse, of which an illustration appears on the opposite page, will soon be under course of construction. The building has four fronts and its size is 70x100 feet. From the ground to the base of the tower is 129 feet, and the tower, including the statue, is 59 feet. Messrs. Placey & Gray of Lincoln are the architects to whom we are placed under obligations for the following more complete description:

The first and basement floors are to be divided by two main corridors, 11 feet wide, extending at right angles from the center out. In the basement, the floor will be level with the grade line, the height of story 10 feet, and arranged as follows: Commencing at south entrance, the county judge's office will be at the left hand, with main office 23 feet 2 inches by 24 feet 6 inches. Private office, 16 feet 2 inches by 17 feet 8 inches, with vault 8x14 feet. Each of the two apartments entered from the main office. Across the main corridor mentioned is the county surveyor's, he being provided with a main office 23 feet 2 inches by 24 feet 6 inches, and vault 8x14 feet. Adjoining the surveyor's office and accessible from and at the east end of the main east and west corridor, the sheriff is provided with a neat office, 16 feet 2 inches by 17 feet 8 inches, which is directly opposite the jail. The latter is arranged with six double steel cells, basket entrance, etc., in the most approved manner. Opposite the jail, and on the northwest corner of the building, is located the boiler and fuel rooms, fresh water, cistern and closets, each of the latter occupying one-fourth of the floor space of the basement. At the south end of the main north and south corridor, there are two stone stairways leading to the main floor. There is also one broad stone stairway on each side of the building, leading to the main floor. The latter floor being occupied in full, by the following offices, viz: County clerk, circuit and district clerks, treasurer and recorder, each officer occupying one-fourth of the floor space of this floor, being provided for alike, as follows: Main office, 23 feet 4 inches by 24 feet 6 inches; private office, 16 feet 2 inches by 17 feet 8 inches, with vault attached, 8x14 feet, and any of the last mentioned offices may be entered from either of the main corridors, at pleasure. At the south



YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, YORK



end of the main north and south corridor there is a large, double stairway leading to the second or court room floor, at the head of which are located the following rooms, viz.: Grand jury room, 23 feet 2 inches by 24 feet 6 inches; county superintendent's room, 16x24 feet; petit jury room, 11x20 feet, petit jury room, 15x16 feet; circuit judge's private office, 12x22 feet; lawyer's consultation room, 11x15 feet, also witness room, 12x15 feet. Access to the latter four rooms is had only through a private hallway leading from the bar to the last mentioned room. The main corridor on this floor is 11 feet wide and leads to the large and commodious court room, 40x63 feet in the clear.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Prior to the year 1870 York County was attached to Seward County for judicial and revenue purposes. On the 18th day of March, 1870, his excellency, David Butler, governor of the State of Nebraska, issued a proclamation in response to a petition signed by N. A. Dean, John Anderson, William Anderson, Nerva Fouse, Elias Gilmore, George Stubblefield, Henry Chatterton, H. W. Taylor, David Bussard, J. W. Kingston, P. Church, David Doan, James H. Stewart, Newton Hyett, John A. Mercer, C. C. Smith, Mr. Coon, David Baker, Fernando McFadden, Levi Woodruff, Robert Anderson, Randolph Fairbanks, J. W. Wartz, E. Melick, Elisha Martin, Will Whitaker, Jim Whitaker, G. W. Vance, A. J. Gilmore, Jacob Gilmore and David Henderson, the voting population of York County at that time, authorizing a permanent organization of the county.

In accordance with this proclamation, on the 26th of April, 1870, the people of York County met at the polling places of the three precincts and exercised their franchise, at which election eighty-six votes were cast throughout the entire county. Of this number fifty-one were polled in precinct No. 1, at the house of Uncle Elias Gilmore, section 17; in precinct No. 2, at the old pre-emption house of A. M. Ghost, situated at York, on section 18; in precinct No. 3, at the residence of J. M. Parker.

A full complement of county officers was duly elected and the choice of the people resulted as follows: Edward Bates, clerk; Julius Frost, treasurer; George Flock, sheriff; D. T. Moore, probate judge; W. H. Armstrong, superintendent of public instruction; Frank Manning, surveyor; Dr. S. V. Moore, David Bussard, and Capt. L. F. Wyman, commissioners.

All of the above officers qualified and entered upon the immediate discharge of their duties.

At this election the county seat was located at York, in consideration of about two hundred lots given to the county by the Town Plat Company.

The first session of the newly elected Board of County Commissioners was held June 4, 1870, in the old pre-emption house before mentioned, which was situated near the present site of the Central Hotel stables, just south of the public square. At this session the county clerk was instructed to purchase upon the credit of the county, all necessary books and stationery for keeping the county records, which was the first official proceeding of the board.

Messrs. David Bussard, John D. Reed, Julius Frost and County Clerk Edward Bates were appointed a committee to investigate and settle the individual accounts

of the county with Seward County, and John D. Reed was also appointed attorney for York County.

The county was divided into three commissioners' districts, comprising the following territory: District No. 1, township 9, ranges 1, 2, 3, and 4, west; district No. 2, township 10, ranges 1, 2, 3, and 4, west; district No. 3, townships 11 and 12, ranges 1, 2, 3, and 4, west.

York was officially declared the county seat, and the county clerk ordered to give due notice of the fact as provided by law."

EARLY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In November of this year a new mail route was established from Lincoln to Grand Island, via Seward, and three new postoffices were established in the county, named Palo, Thayer, and Aikin's Mill. Chauncey Aikins served Uncle Sam as postmaster at Aikin's Mill, and J. H. Parker at Thayer. Soon after this the citizens of York petitioned for a mail route between York and Fairmont by way of McFadden, which was granted on condition the people pay for conveying the mails. Such a piece of economy on the part of a postmaster general of the present time seems incredible, but nevertheless it remains a historical fact. Dr. Thomas L. Myers was appointed postmaster at York, but the office not proving very lucrative, he soon resigned, and F. O. Bell was appointed as his successor. He held the office for two years and was succeeded by J. E. Cochran, who resigned in a short time and Mrs. M. J. Hammond was appointed.

At the first session of the board of the year 1871, held January 3, Beaver Creek Precinct was divided on the line between ranges 2 and 3, and the west portion was created a new precinct, under the name of Baker. Moore Precinct was also divided on the line between ranges 2 and 3, and the east portion formed into a new precinct and named Stewart.

On the 29th of July York Precinct was created and the county seat made the place of voting.

At an adjourned session of the board convened November 2, 1871, the county was redivided into nine voting precincts, eight miles square, named as follows, commencing at the noreast corner and running west, thence east, etc.: Stewart, Houston, North Blue, Baker, York, Beaver Creek, West Blue, Woodruff and Henderson.

During this year the first county road was laid out along the West Blue and was surveyed by H. Badger. Soon after this a bill was drafted by Judge D. T. Moore and D. R. Creegan making all section lines a road, in certain counties, including York County. This bill passed the Legislature and became a law. The provisions were afterward extended to include all the counties of the state.

In August, 1871, it was decided to call a special election to vote upon the proposition to sell enough of the town lots owned by the county to build a courthouse. The proposition was carried, \$1,500 worth of lots sold, and the contract to build the present courthouse let to Mr. Charlton. It was a fine building for that time, but appears rather insignificant now, after a lapse of ten years of usefulness. Prior to this time and the building of the courthouse the records were kept in a sod building of one room adjoining Dr. Tutton's drug store, and the sessions of the commissioners held in the doctor's store, who was county clerk until the close of

1872, resigning December 2d. John H. Helms succeeded him, being appointed to fill the vacancy.

In the fall of 1870 A. J. Gilmore was elected county commissioner to fill the place of David Bussard whose term of office had expired. At the general election of 1871 Judge D. T. Moore was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Two hundred and eighteen votes were cast in the county and the following persons were called from the walks of private life to serve the county: A. B. Tutton, county clerk; B. M. Elliott, treasurer; C. D. Aikins, sheriff; L. P. Buckmaster, probate judge; H. H. Tate, superintendent public instruction.

In the spring of 1871 York County received its first proposal for building a railroad. Doctor Converse, superintendent of the Midland Pacific Railroad, submitted a proposition to the people of York County in which he offered to extend the company's road from Seward to York if the county would vote bonds to the amount of \$150,000, payable in twenty years, and donate the right of way through it. The proposition met with decided opposition throughout the county in general, but more particularly in the southern precincts that received little benefit in the way of building up and establishing towns.

While the settlers were fully aroused to the necessity of having railroad facilities and fully appreciated the advantages to be derived from one, yet they were unwilling and very sensibly refused to load the young county with a debt that would have been a burden to its inhabitants for many years. A special election was called March 19, 1872, and the proposition accordingly voted down.

The annual election of 1873 gave the county the following officers: L. J. Gandy, treasurer; F. W. Liedke, clerk; W. E. Morgan, probate judge; J. P. Miller, sheriff; T. A. Parkinson, superintendent public instruction; Frank Manning, surveyor; T. Brooks, coroner; W. H. Greer and Thomas Burgess, commissioners, and the following year of 1874 H. S. Burtch was elected commissioner.

A project for building a narrow-gauge railroad had been advanced by some of the leading citizens of the county, the stockholders to be residents of the county. This created quite a stir, and some enthusiasm was manifested. It was meeting with some favor and endorsement when another proposition was received from Dr. Converse which ran the narrow-gauge scheme entirely off the track. This second proposition was submitted in 1874 and demanded only \$94,000, in county bonds, in consideration of which the Midland Pacific Railroad was to be extended to York. The bond campaign of 1875 was a very warm one and met with some opposition. Eleven hundred and seventy-five votes were cast at this election and the proposition was favored by a sufficient majority in the county, while the precinct of York voted to issue its bonds to the amount of \$10,000 as an additional bonus. The company fulfilled its promises and the first train reached York in August, 1877. In the fall of 1875, at the general election, Liedke, Gandy, Miller and Brooks were re-elected; W. B. Cummins, probate judge; J. E. Cochran, superintendent of public instruction; A. B. Coddington, surveyor.

At this election Hon. George W. Post, at this time a young and promising member of the York bar, was elected judge of the fourth judicial district. The first representatives to the State Legislature from York County were elected in 1876. The senatorial district included York and Hamilton counties. Hon. S. V. Moore and Hon. Lee Love were chosen to serve the people as representatives, and

Hon. W. M. Knapp as senator. Benjamin Woolman was this year elected commissioner.

In 1877 Messrs. F. W. Leidke, J. P. Miller, L. J. Gandy, W. B. Cummins, J. E. Cochran, and A. B. Coddington were re-elected, and Thomas Gray as commissioner.

At the general election in 1878 W. T. Scott and W. H. Keckley were elected to the State Legislature and F. W. Liedke as state auditor. Mr. Liedke resigned his position as county clerk and the commissioners appointed Hon. Lee Love to fill the vacancy caused.

At the election of county officers for 1879, W. B. Cummins, J. P. Miller, and A. B. Coddington were again re-elected. J. A. Eatherly was elected county clerk; A. J. Bell, district clerk; E. E. Armour, superintendent public instruction, and Charles W. Wullbrandt, commissioner.

In the fall of 1880 Hon. S. V. Moore and Albert Wilsey were elected as representatives; Martin Burns as state senator, and Jesse Love, county commissioner.

The election of 1881 gave the county the services of a set of efficient officials who were elected as follows: Milton Sovereign, clerk; J. W. Bennett, treasurer; W. W. Giffen, county judge; James H. Hamilton, sheriff; E. E. Armour, superintendent public instruction; A. B. Coddington, surveyor; J. W. Wells, M. D., coroner, and S. A. Myers, commissioner.

In the spring of 1873 the county was encumbered by a debt of \$44,000 caused by the erection of bridges and other internal improvements, and refunded its debts by issuing bonds to that amount.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The various counties of Nebraska work under two systems of membership for their county governing body. Most of the counties now work under the commissioner plan, by which three members are elected to constitute the county's legislative and administrative body. Other counties use the supervisor plan, by which the county is divided into seven districts and a resident of each district is elected by the votes of the electorate of his respective district. But York County during most of its existence has seen fit to operate with a county board of twenty-five members. The first members of the board in 1870 were Messrs. David Bussard, Dr. S. V. Moore, and Captain L. F. Wyman. At the election in the fall of 1870 A. J. Gilmore was selected and took the seat of Commissioner Bussard. During the term of 1871-72 Gilmore and Wyman held over and Andrew Houston was elected to succeed Doctor Moore. In the fall of 1872 J. H. Stewart came on the board. In 1873 W. H. Greer and Thomas Burgess were elected, making an entirely new board in the place of the veteran commissioners. In 1874 H. S. Burtch took the seat of Commissioner Stewart. Greer, Burgess and Burtch served together, and in 1876 David Doan succeeded Burtch. In 1877 Burtch and Doan held over with Benjamin Woolman as the new member, and in 1878 Thomas Gray succeeded Doan. In 1879 Woolman and Gray served with A. C. Eberhart. In 1880 Eberhart and Woolman held over, with Jesse and Charles Wullbrandt as the two new members. In 1881 Jesse Love succeeded Woolman. In 1882 S. A. Myers succeeded Eberhardt. In 1883 S. A. Myers and Jesse Love served with C. W. Hays, the new member, until November 21 of that year, when the new system of a membership of seven was inaugurated. The new board of seven who were elected consisted of: H. N. Logan,

Stewart Township; E. C. Smith, North Blue; Fred Schneringer, Baker; A. C. Montgomery, York Precinct; H. S. Burtch, Beaver Creek; John Woolstenholm, West Blue, and William Goodman, Woodruff. In 1884 the first six named for 1883 remained on the board, G. W. Hays succeeded Goodman and H. W. Fay was added. In November of that year the name of North Blue Township was changed to Morton.

In 1885 the board was enlarged to a membership of seventeen. The personnel for this year consisted of: H. N. Logan, Stewart Township; Carl Ratzlaff, Thayer, and later, C. H. Post succeeding him; G. F. Holmes, Morton Township; E. C. Smith, Arborville; R. D. Logan, Bradshaw; F. A. Bidwell, Lockridge; G. J. Hurlburt, New York; John W. Strickler, Waco; J. P. Cook, Beaver Creek; L. M. Miller, Leroy; J. M. Bullard, Baker; Leopold Mack, Brown; H. W. Fay, Henderson; C. W. Wullbrandt, McFadden; T. W. Smith, Hays; A. G. Corey, West Blue, and W. H. Bagnall, York.

In 1886, Post, Holmes, Bidwell, Hurlburt, Cook, Bullard, Mack, Smith, Corey, and Bagnall remained on the board, J. F. Hale was chosen as eighteenth member and second from York, and the following new members came to the board: F. O. Veak, D. Graves, A. C. Mason, John Robertson, William Meradith, W. M. Babcock, and John Wolstenholm.

In 1887 H. N. Logan returned to represent Stewart; Post, Holmes, Hurlburt, Cook, Bullard, Babcock, and Corey remained, and the new members were: W. R. Nichols, Arborville; D. I. Hunter, Lockridge; John B. Lyle, Waco; L. M. Miller, Leroy; F. K. Laird, Brown; C. A. Smith, McFadden; F. M. Churchill, Hays; D. W. Hoyt, and E. Reisinger, York.

In 1888 holdover or re-elected members were Post, Nichols, Hunter, Hurlburt, and Hoyt. New faces on the board were: Swan Lindstrom, Stewart; B. F. Myers, Morton; S. V. Moore, Bradshaw; W. M. Strickler, Waco; John J. Price, Beaver Creek; William Meradith, Leroy; W. J. Russell, Baker; M. V. Selover, Brown; Rowlan Shephard, Henderson; A. G. Corey, McFadden; F. M. Kennedy, Hays; Nerva Fouse, West Blue, and A. S. Harlan, second member from York.

In 1889 members remaining on the board were Post, Myers, Hunter, Price, Meradith, Russell, Shephard, and Hoyt of York. The newly arrived members were: Joseph Robertson, Stewart; P. Church, Arborville; Thomas P. Miller, Bradshaw; J. W. Burnett, New York; John C. Robertson, Waco; A. Prohaska, Brown; W. E. Collins, McFadden; W. E. Clithero, Hays; John A. Kelso, West Blue, and W. H. Alberts, York.

In 1890 the remaining members from the old board were: Post, Church, Hunter, John C. Robertson, Price, Meradith, Prohaska, Collins, Clithero, Kelso and Hoyt. The newly elected members were: B. F. Willis, Stewart; G. F. Holmes, back again from Morton; W. F. Morrison, Bradshaw; M. D. Einsel, New York; I. W. Watt, Baker; Robert Henderson, Henderson Township; C. A. McCloud and D. E. Sedgwick for York.

Another change in the number of the membership brought up a controversy as to who were entitled to seats during this year. Hunter, Holmes, Collins, Kelso, and McCloud, as a committee in charge, recommended seating P. Church, D. I. Hunter, John C. Robertson, William Meradith, C. W. Clithero, and that those members with even-numbered townships should hold over until 1891, and a solution made to give York four members.

The year 1891 therefore presents an enlarged board, the roster of membership for which was: B. F. Willis, Stewart; Peter Ehlers, Thayer; G. F. Holmes, Morton; P. Church, Morton; W. F. Morrison, Bradshaw; John Romsdall, Lockridge; J. D. Houston, New York; W. O. Downing, Waco; John J. Price, Beaver Creek; Martin Price, Leroy; I. W. Watt, Baker; A. Prohaska, Brown; Robert Henderson, Henderson; Joseph Finney, Hays; W. E. Collins, McFadden; John A. Kelso, West Blue, and from York, D. E. Sedgwick, C. A. McCloud, and W. L. Morgan, vice Hoyt.

In 1892 the members who stayed on the board from the preceding membership were Willis, Ehlers, Church, Morrison, Romsdall, Houston, Downing, Martin, Price, Prohaska, Henderson, Finney, Kelso, and the York members. The new faces were: W. S. Jeffery, Morton; H. Burhoop, Beaver Creek; C. A. Rounds, Baker; Joseph P. Neville, McFadden.

In 1893 the new membership registered: J. L. Bruffy, Thayer; S. B. Flick, Arborville; J. L. Wilson, Waco; C. H. Stark, Hays; Joseph Noel, McFadden.

Eighteen ninety-four saw but a few changes, bringing onto the board Houston of Waco, N. B. Swanson, Martin Price returning to the board.

The membership in 1895, the last year of the large membership board for some time, consisted of H. C. Lanphere, Stewart; J. L. Bruffy, Thayer; D. W. Baker, Morton; S. B. Flick, Arborville; William Morrison, Bradshaw; John Romsdall, Lockridge; Houston, Wellman, Martin Price, Prohaska, Henderson, C. H. Stark, Ellis Lonsdale, J. A. Kelso, J. D. White, A. Sachschesky, Gustav Faustman, Levi Imel, S. T. Mapps, F. M. Cox, E. D. Smith, and Otis Moulton.

In 1896 the county had changed to the system of a board of seven supervisors, and this system remained in operation for about twelve years. The seven supervisors in 1896 were William Davidson, D. W. Baker, T. B. Reed, Henry Wellman, Robert Henderson, H. M. Detrick, and James Sturgeon. In 1897 Baker, Wellman, Detrick, and Sturgeon remained and the new members were W. M. Babcock, W. A. Downing, and H. Bartholomew. In 1898 Detrick, Sturgeon, Babcock and Downing remained and the incoming members were C. W. Post, J. P. Thompson and E. E. Lincoln. In 1899 the holdover or remaining members were Post, Lincoln, Detrick, and Sturgeon, while the new members were E. W. Morrison, W. Marvel, and J. W. Wiseman. In 1900 Morrison, Winfield Marvel, Wiseman, Lincoln, and Detrick stayed, and A. L. Davis, vice Post, and William Meradith, vice Sturgeon, came onto the board. In 1901 Davis, Meradith and Detrick stayed over, and those who came on were W. O. Downing, O. R. Jones, Lewis Walbrecht, and George Jensen. In 1902 Downing, Jones, Walbrecht, Detrick, and Meradith stayed over, but the latter was succeeded on January 7, 1903, by L. S. Wheeler. The new members in 1902 were William Witte and O. B. Liedke. In 1903 Wheeler, Liedke, and Witte served, with H. C. Lanphere, W. K. Williams, P. J. Ruch and Thomas Pierson as the new members. In 1904 Lanphere, Williams, Ruch, Pierson and Leidke remained on the board and the newcomers were James Shipp and P. J. Kennedy. In 1905 Shipp, Pierson, Leidke, and Kennedy held over and the new members were E. W. Morrison, W. W. Wyckoff, and Frank Steffen. In 1906 the only new member was Fred Bittinger, vice Leidke. In 1907 the entire 1906 board remained on, except Pierson, and two new members were added, the three new arrivals being C. C. Neufeld, Chas. O. Stewart, and Miller. In 1907 N. Johnson and J. H. Tilden were new members.

In 1909 York County returned to the system of a board of legislative size and proportions. The membership of the newly elected board, including many who had heretofore served and returned to these duties, were Supervisors Fred Bettinger, H. E. Belcher, W. G. Chapman, Davidson, Devine, N. Johnson, Dorsey, Henehan, Kennedy, Price, Prohaska, Tucker, Frank Steffen, Sachchewsky, Sloniger, Williams, Witte, J. H. Tilden, W. W. Wyckoff and O. C. Neufeld.

A few changes ensued and the new board as finally constituted, with a list of townships they represented, is as follows, which will indicate but little change in township nomenclature since the '90s: William Davidson, Stewart Township; Fred Bittinger, Morton; C. H. Bedient, Bradshaw; J. M. Tucker, New York; Martin Price, Leroy; A. Prohaska, Brown; George Sloniger, Henderson; P. J. Kennedy, West Blue; E. B. Nelson, York; W. G. Chapman, York; A. G. Sachschewsky, Thayer; J. L. Dorsey, Arborville; W. R. Devine, Lockridge; Frank Steffen, Waco; William Witte, Beaver Creek; M. H. Kirkpatrick, Baker; George M. McDonald, Hays; Thomas Henehan, McFadden; W. K. Williams, York, and William Belcher, York. The new members in 1910 were J. A. Mauk, Baker, vice Kirkpatrick; E. T. Watson, Waco, vice Steffen; Peter Ehlers, Thayer, and F. M. Churchill, Hays.

In 1911 a few new faces appeared, including H. M. Miller, Bradshaw; David Price, New York; Cornelius Peters, Henderson; S. S. Horn, West Blue; M. N. Stammers, York. In 1912 A. Mauk and W. E. Prather were new faces on the board.

In 1913 the membership of the board of supervisors were: R. R. Copsey, W. G. Chapman, E. O. Jenkins, William Davidson, J. L. Dorsey, Thomas Henehan, S. W. Gillan, James C. Kennedy, J. A. Mauk, W. E. Prather, A. Prohaska, T. H. Clifford, James Neville, C. Peters, M. L. Diehl, M. B. Stream, William Witte, F. M. Churchill, W. R. Devine, and W. K. Williams. Practically all of the same membership served in 1914, and in 1915 a few new faces appeared, being H. M. Miller, John Morgan, William Tieken, J. M. Tucker, F. C. Williams, A. J. Martin and Ernest Green, the retiring members being Chapman, Clifford, William Davidson, Kennedy, Mauk, Witte and Henehan. In 1916 the new members were G. W. Doell, Thomas Green, and Fred W. Romsdal succeeding Prohaska, Ernest Green, and W. R. Devine. In 1917 and 1918 the new members were Charles Broehl, Paul Mueller, and George T. Westwood, displacing Copsey, Prather, and Stream, the latter transferring his legislative activity to the Nebraska State Legislature for the 1917 session. In 1918 the new membership brought in D. D. Epp, G. W. Mulig, R. M. Rankin, Robert Sperry and L. F. White, while the following retired from the board: Green, Tieken, W. K. Williams, Peters, and F. C. Williams.

The complete roster for 1919 was: Robert Sperry, Gresham; E. O. Jenkins, Benedict; H. M. Miller, Bradshaw; F. Oakley Price, York; Gilbert Mulig, York; John Morgan, York; D. D. Epp, Lushton; Leslie White, McCool; R. M. Rankin, York; A. J. Martin, York; Paul Mueller, Thayer; J. L. Dorsey, Bradshaw; F. W. Romsdal, York; George Westwood, Waco; James Neville, York; George W. Doell, Henderson; F. M. Churchill, Fairmont; S. W. Gillan, Exeter; M. L. Diehl, York, and Charles Broehl, York.

The 1920 board remains the same as 1919, except for Gillan and Martin being succeeded by John W. Schultz and H. C. Cites.

In 1921 Broehl, Diehl, Schultz, and Churchill remain on the board by re-election

and the new members coming on are A. J. Prather, Thayer Township; Homer Ramsey, Arborville; J. C. Brown, Lockridge; J. W. Deboar, Leroy; D. J. Krocker, Brown; R. M. Rankin and W. R. Furman, York.

COUNTY CLERKS

A very important office, around which much of the county business centers is that of county clerk. He acts as the clerk for the County Board of Supervisors, works in close relation with the assessor and treasurer, the work of the three forming a trinity of action in assessing, compiling, recording, collecting and disbursing tax levies, collections and receipts. During the World war period, the county clerk was made secretary of the local draft board, more properly known as the selective service board, and the records of the Federal Government's actual participation with the individual inhabitants of the county very largely centered in this office.

The first county clerk of the county was Edward Bates. D. R. Creegan was soon afterwards elected to the office; in 1871 A. B. Tutton assumed the office. John H. Helms filled it late in 1872, and F. W. Liedke assumed the office in 1873 and held it until 1878, when Lee Love served a short period, and J. A. Eatherly took it in 1879. In 1882 M. Sovereign assumed the office and served for about eight years, his successor, W. H. Reader, taking office in 1890. After six years of service, Reader was succeeded by J. D. White in 1896, and four years later C. C. Boslaw assumed the office, in 1900. W. A. Miller took office in 1906, and held it for four years, with the assistance of former Clerk Boslaw as deputy. Henry F. Chapin became clerk in 1910 and served for five years. Annie H. Beck became clerk in 1915 and served for four years, with Hazel Stowe as deputy. Miss Stowe remained as deputy with the present clerk, John Muir, who took office in 1919.

COUNTY TREASURERS

This important financial office of the county has been graced with fewer changes of personnel than some of the county offices. The first county treasurer, Julius Frost, served until B. M. Elliott assumed the office in 1871, and in a short time he yielded to L. J. Gandy. Mr. Gandy served for ten years, and in 1882 yielded to John W. Bennett. In 1886 N. M. Ferguson took the office, and in 1890 N. P. Lundeen became county treasurer. D. S. Zimmerman became treasurer in 1892 and remained until 1896, when N. Johnson succeeded him. In 1900 Herman Behling became treasurer, and in 1902 Robert Henderson began a tenure to last for four years, and in 1906 his deputy, R. R. Cropsey, assumed the office. In 1910 W. E. McCloud became treasurer and had the office for four years, and in 1917 A. A. Metz became treasurer, and was succeeded in 1919 by his deputy, the present treasurer, Frank L. Propst.

SHERIFF

This is an office in which the incumbent comes peculiarly in personal touch with the people of the county, and the manner in which its incumbent may endear him-

self to the constituency is evidenced by the tributes herein included, paid to Sheriff Hamilton, to evidence this fact.

The first two sheriffs of the county, holding short tenures, were George Flock and C. D. Aikins. In 1873 Sheriff J. P. Miller took the office and served faithfully for ten years. Then in 1882 J. H. Hamilton assumed the duties, and likewise served faithfully until his death in 1888. His son, Thomas E. Hamilton, finished out his term and in 1890 yielded the office to George W. Shreck, who had served as deputy with J. H. Hamilton. In 1894 Thomas Price assumed the office, and in 1898 W. I. Lancaster became sheriff. H. W. Brott became sheriff in 1902 and after four years of service was succeeded by J. H. Afflerbach, and in 1910 his successor was W. F. Sweet. The present sheriff, J. C. Miller, assumed the office in 1915, and C. A. Peterson has been his deputy.

SHERIFF HAMILTON DEAD

The Sad Death of the Popular Sheriff of York County Was Reported by the Local Press as Follows:

"An earthquake could have created no greater consternation in the city than the announcement that James H. Hamilton had suddenly died at his residence on Iowa Avenue in this city, at half-past eleven on Sunday, May 20, 1888. Everybody was paralyzed upon hearing the awful news, and it was hours before the people could fully realize the terrible truth. It may not be generally known that Mr. Hamilton has suffered for some time with what is called fistulous piles. His physicians decided that an operation was necessary to remove the cause of the disease. On Sunday forenoon, the time decided upon to perform the operation, Doctors Shidler and Davis were called and prepared to begin work. It was thought necessary to put the patient under the influence of chloroform, and the drug was provided and administered by inhaling. A few minutes after the chloroform had been placed to his face, a sudden flush was noticed upon the cheeks, and the further application of the drug was stopped, and in less than a minute the noble spirit of James H. Hamilton had flown to the Maker that gave it. The chloroform had the effect to cause paralysis of the heart, and before anyone could realize what had taken place, the heart and pulse had stopped forever. The strong and healthy constitution of the man could avail nothing, after the heart had stopped, and no power on earth of medicine or science could start the vital organ. An examination of the heart was made before the chloroform was administered, and the physicians pronounced it sound. The deplorable result of the case is a terrible blow to the physicians, and they are deserving of all the charity the public can bestow. The facts having become distorted by the different stories circulated upon the streets, a council of prominent physicians was called to make an examination. The following statement was unanimously signed by all the physicians taking part in the post mortem:

York, Neb., May 20, 1888.

Upon the occasion of the death of James H. Hamilton, the undersigned physicians of the city met, and after due examination of the body, are prepared to say that death took place before any operation had been begun. We are of the opinion

that all due precautions were used in the administration of chloroform, and that no undue amount was used, that proper restoratives were employed.

B. F. FARLEY,
D. E. SEDGWICK,
A. O. FAULKNER,
D. E. FORISTALL,
R. MCCONAUGHY.

JAMES H. HAMILTON

James H. Hamilton was born in Shelby County, Indiana, April 6, 1842. When but a baby his parents moved to Illinois, and there remained until 1855, when they went to Wapello County, Iowa. Here they remained, their son living with them until his country demanded his services. He enlisted in Company E, Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, March, 1862, in answer to the first three months' call for that state. At the expiration of this term, he re-enlisted and remained in the service until the close of the war, returning to his home in August, 1865. He was a brave, fearless soldier, and although young, was first rewarded with the office of second sergeant, then of second lieutenant. On the twenty-sixth day of October, 1865, shortly after his return from the army, he was married to Lucy A. Graves, at their home in Wapello County, Iowa. There they lived on a farm until 1876, when they removed to York County and located on a farm near York. Besides his estimable wife, two children survive him—Thomas E., the well-known stenographer, and Miss Katie, an interesting and lovable daughter. In 1878 he was appointed by Sheriff J. P. Miller to the office of deputy sheriff, and served with such marked ability and distinction that, at the fall election of 1881, he was elected sheriff, and has ever since filled the office to the entire satisfaction of the entire state, being elected for the fourth term last November. Of late years Honest Jim Hamilton has had practically no opposition. His nomination made, his election was always conceded. During his term of service no man has served his county and the state at large with such marked success. Probably no executive officer in the Northwest has achieved the same reputation in running down criminals. It became a by-word that if Hamilton was detailed to find a man, he was sure to "bag his game." No criminal, no matter to what part of the Union he had fled, ever escaped him. He was firm in the execution of his duty, but always kind and considerate to those who were unfortunate enough to be in the power of the law.

Resolutions by County Officers

A meeting of the county officers was held Monday morning for the purpose of taking appropriate action with reference to the death of the late Sheriff Hamilton. Hon. W. T. Scott was elected chairman and A. J. Newman secretary. A committee of four on resolutions was appointed, including the chairman, who have drafted the following:

Whereas, It has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst the efficient sheriff of this county, James H. Hamilton; and,

Whereas, in order to express our opinion of his worth as an officer and citizen, we, the county officers, in meeting assembled, unanimously

Resolve, That in the death of James H. Hamilton the county has lost an officer

whose ability, integrity, and strict attention to the duties of his office has always, during his more than six years' incumbency of the same, reflected great credit upon himself and honor to the county and state.

Resolved, That in his death we feel no less has been the loss of this community, for he was a good citizen and an honorable man, as well as a most capable officer.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore his demise, and our hearts are deeply touched; that our sympathy and friendship are with his estimable wife and children in their great affliction and irreparable loss.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the county board and a copy published in each of the city papers, and one sent to the family of our deceased friend.

W. T. SCOTT,

County Attorney,

M. SOVEREIGN,

County Clerk,

A. J. NEWMAN,

Clerk District Court,

D. W. HOYT,

Chairman Board of Supervisors.

Resolutions by York County Bar

A meeting was held by the bar of the county in Judge Bates' office on Monday afternoon to make arrangements for attending the funeral of Sheriff Hamilton. Judge Post was elected chairman and Judge Giffen secretary. It was moved and carried to meet at the courthouse at 1 o'clock tomorrow, and attend the funeral. A committee of three on resolutions was appointed by the chair, who drafted the following:

Whereas, Our friend and official co-laborer, James H. Hamilton, has been suddenly called from this mortal life; and,

Whereas, By reason of our intimate and constant association with him we have learned to esteem and honor him for his true manly worth, sterling integrity, and generous impulses; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the Bar of York County that it is with unfeigned sorrow we mourn his loss and deplore the sad and sudden circumstances of his demise; and,

Resolved, That in his death the county and also the state has lost an efficient and upright official and the best interests of the community one of its strongest supporters; and,

Resolved, That the court of which he was the ever faithful executive officer and the bar, whose ready and courteous co-laborer he was in the administration of justice, have sustained an irreparable loss; and,

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with his widowed wife, son, and daughter, who have been so sorely afflicted by the loss of a kind, indulgent and loving husband and father; and,

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in each of the city papers and presented to the family of the deceased, and that the honorable district court

of York County be requested to order the same spread upon the journal of said court.

F. C. POWER,
N. V. HARLAN,
E. A. GILBERT,
Committee.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

This office was created about 1888, its duties having theretofore been assigned to the district attorney. J. F. Hale and W. T. Scott exercised its functions until Fred C. Power was elected to serve, beginning in 1890. In 1896 N. V. Harlan succeeded to the office, and in 1900 Power again began service. C. F. Stroman assumed the office in 1902 and served until C. E. Sandall succeeded him after two terms. In 1915 Oden S. Gilmore became county attorney, and in 1919 Charles F. Stroman, the present incumbent, again returned to the office.

COUNTY JUDGE

A very important spoke in the wheels of justice in Nebraska is the county or probate judge. D. T. Moore was first to administer local justice in this position, and shortly afterwards S. P. Buckmaster assumed the judicial functions. W. E. Morgan served two years and then W. B. Cummins in 1875 became county judge. He served until 1882, when W. W. Giffen became the county judge. T. Eddy Bennett in 1886 became the next county jurist, and in 1888 Edward Bates assumed the judgeship. In 1890 A. C. Montgomery began a tenure of office which lasted six years, and he was succeeded by M. M. Wildman, who also served six years and yielded to A. B. Taylor in 1901. He stretched the customary tenure two years, and after eight years of service in 1909 yielded to Arthur G. Wray. He served six years, and his successor, the present county judge, Harry G. Hopkins, has now served six years, but has recently been re-elected for another four years, so he may be able to assume at least a ten year tenure.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

This important office, county superintendent of public instruction, the office in charge of the administration and upbuilding of the public school system of the county, is one of unparalleled importance. Its roster of incumbents displays names of educators who have extended their sphere of usefulness beyond the service of York County.

The superintendent chosen with the organization of the county, W. H. Armstrong, was succeeded in 1871 by H. H. Tate. In 1873 T. A. Parkinson assumed the office, and in 1875 J. E. Cochran. He served until 1879, when his successor, E. E. Armour, began a term of service that lasted six years, and then E. S. Franklin assumed the office and filled it for eight years. George Holdeman served from 1894 until 1898, and Mary Holdeman finished his term. E. C. Bishop, later state superintendent of public instruction, held the office from 1900 to 1904. C. O. Stewart then served four years, and was succeeded by Alice Florer, who after eight

years of service, in 1916, went to Lincoln and became a deputy in the state superintendent's office there. The present county superintendent, Telfer C. Lord, succeeded Miss Florer.

COUNTY ASSESSOR—SURVEYOR—ENGINEER

During the few years county assessor has been a separate office it has been held by W. O. Downing, Harry G. Hopkins, A. J. Martin and J. W. Bennett. John C. Peterson assumed the office on January 4, 1921.

The roster of county surveyors is completed with three names. Frank Manning started in this office and served a short time, then Frank Connelly, and then Manning served again; but in 1875 A. B. Coddling assumed this office and has held it continuously since then, a record of tenure perhaps unequaled in Nebraska history.

Since the recent statute enabling a county to have an experienced, trained civil engineer as county engineer and supervisor of public highways, the York County authorities have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Glenn I. Voyles of Phillipsburg, Kan. Upon his resignation Fred V. Voyles, the present incumbent, was employed.

CORONER

An office since abolished by legislative action, but in the early history of every county a stormy petrel, was that of coroner. Doctors, undertakers and plain politicians vied with each other to secure this berth for such patronage real or imagined as it carried. Randolph Fairbanks was the first occupant of the office in York County. Francis Brooks secured it in 1873 and held it four years, then Wm. H. Keckley secured it.* Charles LeCount next occupied the official position. D. E. Forristall assumed it in 1884, F. S. Morris in 1888, and then came George Flock, who held it until 1894, when Doctor Holbrook assumed the office. In 1898 it fell to Dr. W. R. Knapp. Robert S. Hirsch served from 1902-1907. In 1907 J. E. Smith assumed the office and yielded it in 1911 to A. A. Metz. Olin Hitchcock was last to serve in this office, from 1915 until its abolishment. It is now annexed to the duties of the county attorney, who is coroner *ex-officio*.

THE CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

A. J. Newman assumed this office in 1884 and served faithfully for a period of practically sixteen years. He then yielded the office to I. A. Baker, who served for twelve years. In 1912 it was taken over by Fred Strobel, who after five years of service was succeeded by the present very efficient clerk of district court, Richard O. Allen. This roster presents a wonderful record of faithful service for such a long period, by practically a minimum number of officers.

REGISTRAR OF DEEDS

N. P. Lundeen took this office upon its creation and in 1906 was succeeded by H. A. Belcher. In 1908 W. W. Feaster assumed the office, and in 1914 Roy Davis began a five year tenure, and in 1919 the present registrar, Ed. C. Knight, assumed the office.

ELECTION OF 1920

The result of the election of November 2, 1920, in York County was as follows:

President: Warren G. Harding, 4,265; James M. Cox, 1,857; Aaron S. Watkins, 113; Eugene V. Debs, 140.

Governor: Samuel R. McKelvie, 2,374; John H. Morehead, 1,315; J. D. Graves, 68; Arthur G. Wray, 2,653.

Lieutenant Governor: P. A. Barrows, 2,988; Cass G. Barns, 1,211; D. B. Gilbert, 193; Robert D. Mousel, 1,791.

Secretary of State: Darius M. Amsberry, 3,968; L. A. Larson, 1,877.

Auditor of Public Accounts: Geo. W. Marsh, 3,791; J. W. McKissick, 1,549; Flora D. Porter, 551.

Commissioner Public Lands and Buildings: Dan Swanson, 3,992; Fred Hallier, 1,794.

State Treasurer: D. B. Cropsey, 3,876; J. S. Canaday, 1,717; H. Floyd Miles, 342.

Attorney General: Clarence A. Davis, 3,322; Richard S. Hunter, 1,279; Floyd L. Bollen, 1,463.

Railway Commissioner (Long Term): Thorne A. Browne, 3,794; Roy M. Harrop, 1,701; A. H. Albertson, 275.

Railway Commissioner (Short Term): Harry L. Cook, 3,808; Harold A. Kent, 1,867.

Congressman Fourth District: M. O. McLaughlin, 3,656; A. P. Sprague, 2,478.

State Senator 17th District: Perry Reed, 2,891; Herman Diers, 1,666; W. Q. Detrick, 1,554.

Representative 40th District: Fred E. McFarland, 2,891; W. C. Heiden, 1,451; F. W. Romsdal, 1,726.

Representative 43d District: Peter Hakanson, 3,630; George Landgren, 2,065.

Clerk of District Court: R. O. Allen, 4,318; H. P. Dearing, 1,627.

County Assessor: J. C. Peterson, 4,052; C. W. Flick, 1,839.

NON-PARTISAN BALLOT

Chief Justice of Supreme Court: Grant C. Martin, 2,270; Andrew M. Morrissey, 2,510.

Judge of the Supreme Court: George A. Day, 2,424; William C. Dorsey, 2,015.

Judges Fifth Judicial District: Edward E. Good, 3,299; George F. Coreoran, 2,698; M. M. Wildman, 2,571.

County Judge: Harry G. Hopkins, 4,781.

State Superintendent: John M. Matzen, 2,680; Owen P. Stewart, 2,016.

Regents State University: William L. Bates, 2,248; Geo. N. Seymour, 2,243; E. H. Gerhart, 1,966; Victor G. Lyford, 1,468.

Referendum on Primary Law: Yes, 782; no, 2,921.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS ELECTED

Stewart: Justice of peace, J. E. Sperry; assessor, A. A. Hawley; clerk, C. C. Brittell; treasurer, Ralph C. Thompson.

Thayer: Supervisor, A. J. Prather; justice of peace, C. M. Horsfall; assessor, O. B. Leidke; clerk, L. B. Gaskill; treasurer, Paul Schmidt.

Morton: justice of peace, J. E. Hoover; assessor, H. B. Bottum; town clerk, Ray Schock; treasurer, W. L. Meyer.

Arberville: Supervisor, Homer Ramsey; justice of peace, C. W. Recknor; assessor, S. A. Charles; town clerk, R. E. Merchant; treasurer, Chris Wahl.

Bradshaw: Justice of peace, A. M. Strunk; assessor, R. W. Finley; town clerk, Ray Newcomer; treasurer, C. W. Rogers.

Lockridge: Supervisor, J. C. Brown; justice of peace, Fred C. J. Voss; assessor, H. V. Price; town clerk, Rudolph L. Sandall; treasurer, J. E. Barr.

New York: Justice of peace, A. F. Brunk; assessor, W. B. Houston; town clerk, Ray Newcomer; treasurer, C. W. Rogers.

Beaver: Justice of peace, S. W. Obermeyer; assessor, Henry Burhoop; town clerk, F. H. Hoffschneider; treasurer, Fred Hoffschneider.

Leroy: Supervisor, J. W. Deboer; justice of peace, W. C. Foster; assessor, Geo. Geis; clerk, R. H. Ellis; treasurer, Gene Anderson.

Baker: Justice of peace, D. J. Broadwell; assessor, W. C. Towle; clerk, F. D. Saddoris; treasurer, W. A. Spelman.

Brown: Supervisor, D. J. Kroeker; justice of peace, P. C. Friesen; assessor, G. J. Friesen; clerk, D. B. Peters; treasurer, A. J. Friesen.

Henderson: Justice of peace, J. J. Klippenstein; assessor, F. H. Tuschoff; clerk, J. J. Huebert; treasurer, P. L. Friesen.

Hays: Supervisor, F. M. Churchill; justice of peace, H. E. Whittemore; assessor, W. R. Anderson; clerk, G. Jenkins; treasurer, Elias Baker.

McFadden: Justice of peace, B. J. Ledford; assessor, Jas. Wolstenholm; clerk, Geo. Henry; treasurer, R. F. Lord.

West Blue: Supervisor, John Schultz; justice of peace, Pete Rasmussen; assessor, Martin Peterson; clerk, Walter Peterson; treasurer, Fred Dainton.

York City: Justice of peace, R. C. Stewart; police judge, B. A. Ward.

First Ward: Supervisor, R. M. Rankin; second ward, supervisor, M. L. Diehl; third ward, supervisor, W. R. Furman; fourth ward, supervisor, Chas. Broehl.

CHAPTER VIII

YORK COUNTY'S PART IN STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION—DISTRICT COURTS—JUDGE S. H. SEDGWICK—JUDGE BATES' CASE—LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION—OTHER PARTICIPATION IN STATE AFFAIRS—POSTAL SERVICE—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—CUSTODIAL HOME—MOTHERS' JEWELS' HOME—I. O. O. F. STATE HOME—COUNTY WELFARE WORK.

YORK COUNTY'S PART IN STATE GOVERNMENT

It will not be necessary to go very deeply into the state governmental matters of Nebraska during the existence of York County. That subject has been covered in another section of this work. But suffice it to say that York County arrived at the state of county organization during the administration of Nebraska's first elected governor, after she reached statehood. During the territorial regime, except for two years, there were no settlements in York County. During the first two years of statehood only the few settlements along the established trail comprised the population of York, and until she reached the state of needing local county government, she was not concerned with any participation in statehood matters.

But York County has been more or less concerned with the administration of every governor who has been chosen to administer the affairs of the state. York County has never furnished the state with a governor.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

While York County has never furnished any great number of state candidates to make the race on the various political tickets for state office, she has had a considerable number of very able, adroit political workers who have played a considerable part in shaping the affairs of state government and molding the tickets, platforms and course of action of both of the major political parties of the state.

In 1920 Mayor Arthur G. Wray of York was nominated for governor on an independent ticket, with the support of the farmers' organization, non-partisan league and labor unions of the state and made a very creditable race for a candidate without a party circle. York furnished a lieutenant governor to the state in 1899, when E. A. Gilbert was elected to that office. F. W. Liedtke of York County was chosen state auditor in 1878. E. C. Bishop, who had been county superintendent of schools in York, was chosen state superintendent of public instruction in 1909, as had Supt. H. R. Corbett of York City Schools theretofore been elevated in 1895.

DISTRICT COURTS

York has furnished several district judges to the judicial district of which the county is a part. The first York County attorney elevated to the district bench was George W. Post, in 1875. Edward Bates was elected judge in 1890. Samuel H. Sedgwick was chosen to his honor in 1896, and Judges Bates and Sedgwick served concurrently at one time. George F. Corcoran has been district judge since 1908.

The elevation of Judge Sedgwick extended beyond the district bench, and he later served the state as one of the twenty-seven attorneys of Nebraska who have been made judge of the Supreme Court of the state. He was occupying this exalted post at the time of his death Dec. 25, 1919. The compiler has deemed it fitting to include at this point, not only a press account of the funeral services for Judge Sedgwick, but a verbatim copy of the minutes of the proceedings held upon March 1, 1920, in the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska, in memoriam of the life and services of Judge Sedgwick:

The funeral services for Judge Sedgwick were held at his late residence in Lincoln conducted by the pastor of the First Congregational Church of which the deceased was a member. Doctor Holmes took entire charge of the services both at Lincoln and the last at York, and was assisted here by Rev. Mr. John, pastor of the Federated churches. The chief justice and surviving five members of the Supreme Court were honorary pallbearers. The active pallbearers in Lincoln were the three judges of the Supreme Court commission and Messrs. Seacrist, Richardson and W. B. Price. The services held in Lincoln were held Saturday morning at 9:30 and consisted of a solo, prayer and short address by Doctor Holmes. The services were held in the Congregational Church, (this city) at 2:00 o'clock. The active pallbearers in York were Messrs. W. A. Harrison, M. M. Wildman, A. G. Wray, C. E. Sandall, C. F. Stroman and G. M. Spurlock. The music was under the direction of Prof. Parks, and was rendered by a quartet composed of Mr. Parks, Doctor Wildman, Mrs. Price, and Mrs. Moore.

Mr. William Jones of Rockford, Ill., a brother of Mrs. Sedgwick, and Mr. Bebb, an attorney of Chicago, and a brother-in-law, arrived in Lincoln in time to be present at the funeral and accompany the friends to York. Miss Catherine Sedgwick, the elder daughter, is in Beirut, Syria, in government relief work, and was notified by cable. Interment was made in Greenwood Cemetery.

JUDGE S. H. SEDGWICK

And now on this first day of March, 1920, at the hour of nine o'clock a. m., the same being the time fixed by the court for hearing the report of the committee heretofore appointed to draft resolutions in memory of Honorable Samuel H. Sedgwick, deceased, the court being in session and members of the bar in attendance, said committee makes the following report, which is duly approved by the court and ordered spread upon its records and published in its reports: May it Please the Court:

In these commemorative proceedings, the committee have sought to avoid altogether merely conventional eulogy and, in its stead, to place of record here a just and accurate estimate of the character and worth of Honorable Samuel H.

Sedgwick, whose earthly career was brought to a close at his home in this city on December 25, 1919.

Judge Sedgwick was born at Bloomingdale, Ill., in the year 1848. He was a law student at the University of Michigan from 1871 to 1872 and held a master's degree from the Wheaton College, Illinois. In 1878 he went to York, Nebraska, where he practiced law until elected judge of the fifth judicial district in 1895, taking his seat January 4, 1896. He held this office for four years. In 1901 he was appointed a Supreme Court commissioner and served in that capacity about two years, when he was elected to the office which he held at the time of his death. He served as a member of this court continuously, with the exception of two years, for a period of fifteen years.

He was widely recognized as an able lawyer, entirely trustworthy and reliable in the business and affairs of his clients, and was ever honorable and just in his dealings with them and with his adversaries.

As a trial judge he was industrious, prompt and unusually accurate in his conclusions, whether of law or fact. He had a frank, open way about him and, because of his strength of mind and evident fairness, he was a power for right and justice, easily dominating the court in which he presided, and holding always the respect and confidence of both counsel and jury.

The reports of this court tell best of his worth as a judge; they tell of his industry and painstaking research. They are rich in demonstrative proof of his ability, sound judgment and accurate reasoning; of his lucid expositions, and of his admirable directness in reaching and stating conclusions.

As a citizen the simplicity of his life, his sobriety of thought and conduct, the fairness of his dealings in all matters, his insistence upon integrity in private and public life, prove him a citizen of the highest and best type. His life was an inspiration to others, and his death, unforeshadowed, so calm, so devoid of pain, seemed but like the passing of a great soul from one tranquil state to another. His death was the end of a full and well spent life; he had kept good company; he communed much with the best philosophers and jurists of the present and past. He cherished no resentments; he was in harmony with the world. "His ways were ways of pleasantness; his paths were paths of peace." He drained life's goblet to the dregs and knew naught of its bitterness. And now that he is gone, that he has passed beyond the bourne that divides the finite from the infinite, it is to us and to this court and to his bereaved family a source of deep consolation to know that he leaves behind him a judicial record unclouded and a character unstained.

We deplore the loss this court, this community and the state have sustained in the death of Judge Sedgwick; and to his family in their sorrow we tender our sincere sympathy.

We ask that this memorial be preserved in the permanent records of this court and that a copy of it be furnished to Mrs. Sedgwick and her daughters.

JOHN J. SULLIVAN (ex-Justice Supreme Court, who served with Judge Sedgwick).

JACOB FAWCETT, (ex-Supreme Judge, who served with Judge Sedgwick).

LESLIE G. HURD, (formerly District Judge of 7th District).

E. E. GOOD, (present District Judge for York County).

C. E. SANDALL, (of York County Bar).

Short addresses were also made by Jacob Fawcett and E. E. Good and testimonial from Leslie G. Hurd was read.

By Chief Justice Morrissey:

The court is convened this morning to pay a last tribute to the memory of our late associate; but how vain it is to attempt to portray the worth of this man, who gave the major part of his mature manhood to the development of the jurisprudence of our state.

Though a prominent figure—a leader—for nearly two score years, his finest and best qualities were known only to those who were privileged to be closely associated with him. To the lawyers he was known as a profound jurist; to the people generally as a just and fearless judge; but the power of his intellect was known only to those who sat with him at the consultation table. Many are the opinions that bear his name, and they will help to light the judicial pathway so long as our jurisprudence endures. But they give no adequate account of the prodigious labor he performed. The lawyer of the future who turns the pages of the Nebraska reports will little know how much of the very spirit of Judge Sedgwick is written into them. To every case that came to the court he gave the same painstaking care he bestowed upon the record when he wrote the opinion himself. He held himself responsible for the result of every decision, even to the phraseology in which rules of law for future guidance were announced. Nor were his wonderful powers of analysis, his compelling logic, and his high character his only contributions to the court. He would be just; but justice he would administer with mercy. Quiet and reserved, almost to the point of austerity, the gentleness of his nature and the warmth of his friendship were known only to the few whose good fortune it was to know him in those intimate relations of life where the judicial ermine was laid aside, and the man whom God made was permitted to function in his own way.

JUDGE BATES' CASE

The elevation of Judge Edward Bates to the district bench was attended with political controversy and ensuing legal difficulties which raised legal questions worthy of being preserved in the annals of Nebraska history, and in the history of York County's participation in the State Government is a very suitable place.

The following press accounts of December, 1890, and January, 1891, tell very completely of this incident:

"The mandamus case of the state of Nebraska ex rel. Edward Bates against J. M. Thayer et al. was argued to the Supreme Court last Friday morning. It was admitted in the pleadings that Judge Bates had been elected by fully 2,771, that the county clerks had given due notice of the election, etc. The case was ably presented to the court by Geo. B. France, Esq., attorney for Judge Bates, who asked for a mandamus, compelling the state board of canvassers to meet and canvass the returns for a district judge and declare the result. The canvassing board consists of Governor Thayer, Secretary of State Cowdery, Attorney General Leese, Auditor Benton and Treasurer Hill. The canvassing board was represented by Attorney General Leese, who really apologized to the court for allowing the case to be brought, but asked to know his duty in the matter. Attorney Hainer of Aurora made the argument against issuing the mandamus. It does not appear on the record who Mr. Hainer represents but his fight is being made to retain the

seat for Judge Smith for one short year longer. The Supreme Court took the case under advisement and have not yet handed down their decision. A decision is expected about the first of next week."

"Judge Bates went to Lincoln on Tuesday to procure his certificate of election and found that the state canvassing board still refused to canvass the vote and issue the certificate. Mr France at once procured a peremptory writ from the Supreme Court and also an execution against Thayer, for the costs of the case. It took about two minutes for the board to get together and make the canvass. They did not like the prospect of being arraigned for contempt and so took their medicine. Judge Bates then took the oath of office and appointed Thomas E. Hamilton court reporter. Mr. Hamilton also took the oath and qualified as reporter. The whole matter is now fully disposed of and settled. Judge Bates filed his resignation as county judge with the county clerk this morning. The office of county judge will remain vacant until the new board of supervisors meet next Tuesday, when a successor will be chosen. Judge Bates has fixed the terms of court for the year as follows: Hamilton County, January 19 to 31; fall term August 24 to September 19; Polk County, February 2 to 14; fall term September 21 to October 3; York County, February 16 to March 21; fall term, October 5 to November 7; Seward County, March 23 to April 18; fall term, November 9 to December 5."

The Supreme Court handed down its decision in the now celebrated case of Judge Bates, against the State Board of Canvassers last Saturday. The opinion is an exhaustive document and fully covers the points of law involved. The syllabus by Chief Justice Cobb is as follows:
State ex rel. Bates vs. Thayer. Mandamus. Writ awarded. Opinion by Mr. Chief Justice Cobb.

T. L. Norval, district judge of the sixth district, whose official term would have expired January, 1892, resigned December 12, 1889, on which date the governor appointed J. H. Smith to the vacancy, who qualified and entered upon the office.

The general election of 1890 was the first general election held more than thirty days after the occurrence of such vacancy. Thirty days previous to the time of holding said election the governor issued his proclamation under section 11 of chapter 26, Compiled Statutes, but inadvertently omitted to insert and designate the office of judge of the sixth district as a vacancy to be filled at said election. At least twenty days previous to the election the county clerks of respective counties of the district made out and delivered to the officer or officers provided by law for the counties respectively, notices of such election, duly posted up ten days prior to the election which notices amongst the offices to be filled contained and designated that of judge of the Sixth judicial district to fill the vacancy.

The whole number of votes cast within the district for any office was 12,734, of which 7,612 were cast for the relator and 4,841 for the incumbent both being candidates for the office at said election. The votes so cast were by the judges of the election of the several townships, precincts and wards of the several counties of the district duly returned to the county clerks within the time and in the manner provided by law, and were by the county clerks duly canvassed and abstracts thereof duly made on separate sheets and directed and forwarded to the secretary of state.

The governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, treasurer of state and attorney general having failed to meet as the state board of canvassers, at the office of the secretary of state, on the third Monday after said election, and canvass the votes so cast for judge of the Sixth judicial district, and returned to the office of the secretary of state, upon an application for a writ of mandamus against them to compel the performance of such duty held that mandamus will lie against the governor to enforce the performance of a ministerial duty enjoined upon him by law.

The appointment of J. H. Smith as judge of the sixth district was temporary to terminate upon the qualification of a judge to be elected to fill the vacancy occurring upon the resignation of T. L. Norval.

The general election of 1890 was an election at which a vacancy in the office of district judge occurring in December, 1889, could be filled, although the vacancy was then temporarily filled by appointment.

The provision of law requiring the governor thirty days previous to an election at which any state officer is to be chosen, to issue his proclamation therefor is directory merely.

Under our constitution and laws the elective franchise is vested in the electors, and its exercise regulated by law. It is not deposited in the executive to be doled out by proclamation.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

York County participated in the election of representatives to the State Legislature for the first time in 1876, with sweeping success, when Dr. W. M. Knapp of York was chosen to represent York and Hamilton counties in the State Senate, and Dr. Servitus V. Moore and Hon. Lee Love, to represent York County in the lower House of the Legislature.

Before this time J. E. Cramer of York County served in the ninth and tenth legislatures, and in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th sessions Albinus Nance of Polk County represented York County.

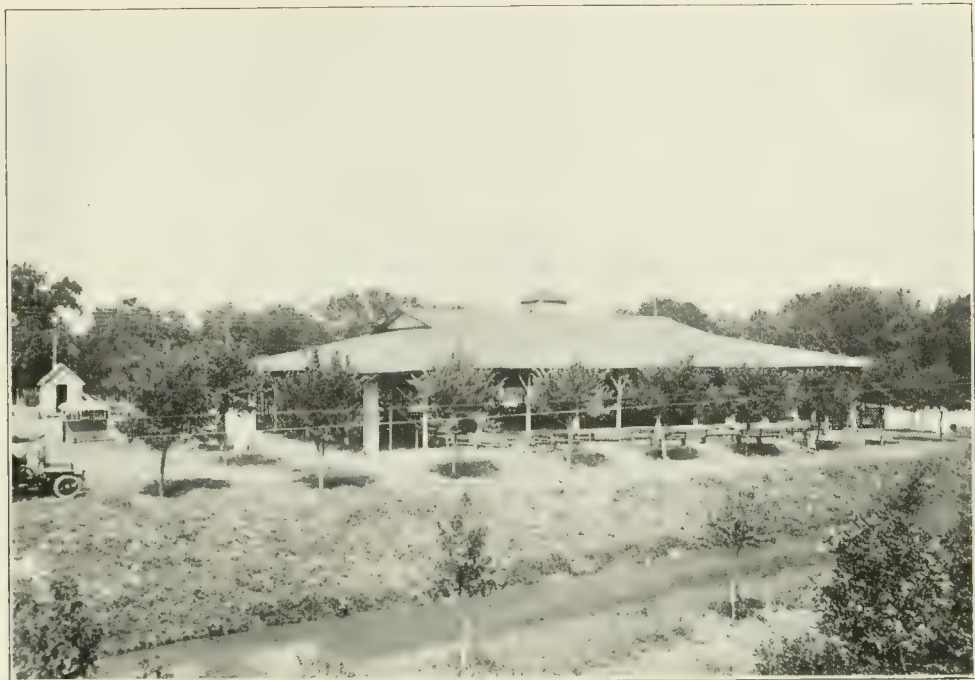
In the session of 1879 D. A. Scoville of Aurora was York's senator, while W. T. Scott and W. H. Keckley were her members of the lower House. In the 1881 session Martin Burns of York was the senator, and Dr. S. V. Moore and Albert Wilsey of Hampton were in the lower House. In the 1883 session M. Howell of York was senator, and Lee Martin and W. J. Russell were York County's representatives in the House; in 1885, Senator Howell served a second time, and Nathan V. Harlan was the colleague of Representative Martin, who also returned for a second time. In 1887 Charles R. Keckley of York became senator, Nathan V. Harlan remained in the House with John L. Wilson of Waco as his colleague, and ex-Representative Wilsey of Hampton (Hamilton County), was also back that session. May it be remarked that Senator Keckley's presence in that session was well known and fully understood from the remarkable presentation of the ills of the transportation system he made, and the grilling he gave to the railroads and the transportation board. He served again in 1889, and with him that year at Lincoln as members of the House of Representatives, E. A. Gilbert of York and C. W. Hays of McCool. In 1891 N. S. Michener of Gresham was in the Senate and in the House were J. M. Gunnett of York and John B. Steward of Benedict.

In 1893 James P. Miller of York served in the Senate, and Nathan Johnson of York was in the lower House, with Charles R. Keckley, who returned to a legislative diet, taking the lower House membership this time. Edwin E. Mighell of Aurora represented the district in the Senate in 1895, and William McFadden of McCool and John B. Conaway of York served in the lower House. In 1897 Representative Conaway was elevated to the Senate, while Robert Henderson of Henderson and D. S. Zimmerman of York served in this session in the lower House. F. M. Howard of Aurora was state senator of this district in 1899, and James M. Tucker of Waco was representative. From this point on York County was alone for a time with one member of the lower House. In 1901 Nathan V. Harlan was elevated to the state senatorship, and Herman Diers of Gresham served in the lower House. In 1903 James M. Cox of Hampton served as senator, and W. M. Meradith of York as member of the lower House. George W. Shreck of York was senator in 1905, and W. M. Meradith again served in the lower House. In the sessions of 1907, 1909 and 1911 J. M. Cox of Hampton served as state senator, and D. W. Baker of Benedict as member of the lower House. In 1907 J. E. Hart of Gresham also served in the lower House; in 1909 C. A. Ritchie, also of Gresham, served, and in 1911 William Colton of York was Baker's colleague. In 1913 Joshua Cox of York was state senator, and Charles R. Keckley again saw legislative service in the lower House. In 1915 Charles E. Sandall of York was state senator, and E. B. Nelson of York was the member of the lower House. In 1917 Senator Sandall again served, but Mahlon B. Stream of York was the member in the lower House. In 1919 Perry Reed of Henderson, who had represented Hamilton County in the preceding legislature was elevated to the Senate, and Milton M. Wildman of York was the member in the lower House. Mr. Wildman secured election as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1920. Senator Perry Reed was re-elected to the Senate and served there in 1921, and Fred McFarland was York's member of the lower House.

OTHER PARTICIPATION IN STATE AFFAIRS

Other than through election to executive state offices, many of York County's adroit political workers have wielded a considerable influence in political affairs of the state. In the campaign of 1920, so victorious to the republican party, Charles A. McCloud of York was the chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. In this same campaign Judge Wray was the independent candidate for governor, and in previous years had been the state chairman of the Progressive State Central Committee, and a national committeeman in the affairs of that movement started by President Roosevelt in the campaign of 1912.

A. P. Sprague was candidate for Congress in 1920 against York's incumbent in that office, M. O. McLaughlin, who was elected in 1918. Mr. Sprague was for some years secretary, and in 1918 was elevated to chairmanship of the Democratic State Central Committee. York's faithful devotion to the welfare of her fire department and unusual energy in promoting the affairs of the firemen of the state has been in part rewarded by the deputy fire wardenship, the office in charge of that work over the state being held by two York men consecutively, H. F. Requarte for a number of years, and W. D. Fisher, who is the present assistant to Chief Fire Warden Hartford. Thomas W. Smith, former warden of the



THE PAVILION, YORK



POSTOFFICE AND GRANT AVENUE SOUTH OF 9TH STREET, YORK



State Penitentiary, has long been a recognized factor in his party's political circles. J. E. Hart, a York County banker, was recognized in 1918 with the secretaryship of the state banking department. The Gilbert brothers have been recognized political factors. Judge Post, in his days of political endeavor, was far more than just an officeholder, but a leader in affairs in his party. His brother, Judge A. M. Post of Columbus, was district judge also many years ago, served upon the state supreme bench, and is now serving again upon the district bench in the neighboring sixth district.

No attempt has been made to make this roster of worthy workers complete, for it most certainly is not. That would take a goodly space, for York County's business, professional and farming leaders are men of the calibre who not only carry straight the affairs of their own county, but see that their county carries even a little more than its share of the burden of the entire state.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS

York has been a very prominent postal center for many years. The postal administration in York dates back to 1871, when Dr. Thomas L. Myers was appointed to that not very lucrative honor. He soon resigned, and F. O. Bell, the merchant who could handle the work in connection with his other business, assumed the duties. Two years later he was succeeded by J. E. Cochran, who resigned in a short time and gave way to Mrs. M. J. Hammond, who served a term about 1880, and then L. J. Gandy served in the time of Garfield-Arthur administrations. F. L. Whedon was the next postmaster, and his force of assistants in 1884 were Mrs. Grace Wightman, assistant, Lynn C. Cowan, mailing clerk, and Miss Wilma Newell, delivery clerk, a force which contrasted with the numerous corps of assistants required by Postmaster Gilbert in 1921 shows the enormous growth of business in this office. Succeeding Mr. Whedon, H. M. Detrick graced this office during the '90s, and succeeding him R. J. Coles served about 1895-1899 and then T. E. Sedgwick for nine years. George W. Shreck held it for two terms. For a very short time, W. W. Feaster held the title, but C. F. Gilbert succeeded to the office under appointment by President Wilson, about 1916, and is the present postmaster.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

York has never drawn any large number of state institutions, until in 1920 she secured the Women's Custodial Home. But for many years past she has tendered support to the religious forces of the community that led to her securing numerous state and national recognitions. In the educational chapter, the history of the old Congregational Academy of 1874; the Nebraska Conference Seminary of 1879, which was the forerunner of Wesleyan University at University Place, and the York College and Ursuline Convent are recounted. But York has two other institutions, in no manner secured through political or state circles, but yet state and national in their scope and the support given to them in the community where they are located; these are a distinct contribution on this county's part to its duty to state and nation.

York secured a state institution early in 1920, when the new Women's Custodial Home was located here by the State Board of Commissioners of Public Institutions.

The State Board of Control of Charitable Institutions has definitely located the new reformatory for women in York, and the land upon which it will be established has been purchased. A week ago members of the board visited York and were guests of the Commercial Club. The advantages of the city were presented and available land investigated. The decision was made before the end of the week, and the farm of J. H. Maguire became state property. The farm adjoins the city on the south and lies east of the Odd Fellows' farm. It is a valuable property and conveniently situated for the purpose.

The woman's reformatory is an entirely new institution and is founded because the members of the board of control feel that the best interests of society will be conserved by confining women offenders against the law in other environments than the state penitentiary. Its mission is an entirely different one from that of the Milford home or the girls' industrial school at Geneva. It will probably be conducted upon the cottage plan and certainly in harmony with the most modern and humane ideas for the treatment of delinquents.

NEW LOCATION FOR CUSTODIAL HOME

The State Board of Control has obtained a new custodial farm for women near York. Its first selection of a tract near the Odd Fellows' home raised so much opposition from officers of the home and people of York that the board, co-operating with citizens of York, has bought another. The new purchase comprises 120 acres about one mile and a half from the city limits and is on the opposite side of town from the Odd Fellows' home, and is a mile and a half from any school.

In effect the board has traded its first selection for the second one, but as it has no authority to sell land in the name of the state the first tract is to be held by a syndicate of York people and officers of the Odd Fellows' home until the Legislature can order a deed issued. The first tract chosen comprised eighty acres of the Maguire farm and cost the state \$28,000. The syndicate is to pay this purchase price on a new tract and the state is to add \$6,881 to it and in return receive 120 acres at a total cost of \$34,881, or \$291 an acre. The state is thus paying \$6,881 additional over the original purchase price and in return is getting forty acres more than was in the original tract.

The new tract contains a farm house and other buildings that are probably a little better than those on the original tract. The farm house is newer but not so large and the other buildings are better than those on the Maguire land.

CUSTODIAL FARM NEEDS

Dr. Alma Chapman of the Custodial Farm is in need of a farm supervisor. The wages are sixty-five dollars per month with room and board.

During the visit to York of Mrs John Slaker, president Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, she visited the farm in company with a couple of York club women. It was a mutual surprise to her and Doctor Chapman to see each other. They had known each other and worked together in the hospital at Hastings. Though more recently Doctor Chapman had been connected with one of the other state hospitals for the insane.

Mrs. Slaker is so interested in the farm and its inmates she has taken the question of more pressing, immediate needs with her to present to the various women's clubs as she visits them over the state. Knowing her constituency so well, she is sure to help from this source, while waiting for the more ponderous machinery of the state to be set in motion to grind out bath tubs, water supply, enough sleeping quarters, etc. Fancy having to give patients a bath in old zinc tubs set on the floor of the garage. Water heated in a wash boiler and lifted to the tub. For the little operating room up stairs over the matron's room water must be carried up from the kitchen in buckets, up a narrow, winding inconvenient stairway. The sleeping quarters for most of the girls is practically barracks, no plastering, walls covered with beaver board. While of course, fresh air is essential such bitter cold as there will be later on will not work for good. And the call for more rooms will come. Nearly every day the matron must countermand telephone or telegraph calls to take this girl or that because of lack of room. "Send them to Geneva," some say, but Geneva is so crowded that girls are sleeping on the floor. All this simply brings more forcibly to our notice one of the awful by-products of war. In a like institution in Kansas at the opening of the war there were twelve inmates in the home. During the first year of the war the number jumped to ninety-six.

Some of the earnest workers from the Christian Church are starting a course of lessons as most of the girls have but rudimentary education. The matron reports the awful spelling and writing in the letters home. Many of them could play and sing if there was an instrument of some kind. Here is a chance for various organizations to co-ordinate efforts or to work as single organizations.

WOMEN'S REFORMATORY

In describing improvements made at institutions during the past two years the board says the state reformatory for women at York has been in operation six months. The new frame dormitory has been the only new building of consequence. The frame farm house has been supplied with a new furnace. This building can be fairly well adapted as an administrative building, but the board says inmates should not be housed therein. New cottages for the segregation of different types of commitments and for the housing of larger numbers are absolutely essential in order that no healthful inmates be exposed to contagion. "It is our desire to enlarge this institution," says the board, "so as to protect all communities and remove their dissolute women to a place of safety, medical treatment and reformation. New sewerage, lighting and water systems are imperative at as early a date as possible."

The board entered into a contract for the construction of a \$100,000 hospital at the soldiers' and sailors' home at Milford, but the contract was contested in court and the board has appealed to the Supreme Court where a suit is now pending.

MOTHERS' JEWELS' HOME

One of the important institutions of York, of which the community and the county are justly proud, is the Mothers' Jewels' Home. This unique institution is one of the contributions so characteristic of this Christianable community. The following presentation of the proper equipment and methods of this wonder-

ful institution, prepared in 1903, is still applicable. It was prepared at that time by those in charge of the home. But we would be derelict in our duty if we did not pause to remember that this institution will always serve as a permanent monument to the memory and a lasting tribute to the unusual worthy Christian lives of Mr. and Mrs. B. Spurlock.

Mothers' Jewels' Home. A home for children by children. Little "Jewels' Bands" wisely directed by the good mothers, ply the willing brain, heart and hand in raising money for the support of the children in "Mothers' Jewels' Home."

Mothers:—The "Cornelias" in Israel. *Jewels:* Children in organized effort. *Home:*—The Bethesda provided. The name is Talismanic, bearing the "Christ's spell," who, even against the protest of His chosen disciples set His seal of recognition on the love and care for these "little ones" that grows brighter and more beautiful as the years round into centuries.

Location. Our land endowment comprises 160 acres—the first acquisition—and a beautiful added plot of about twelve acres, immediately east of the home site, and only separated by the public highway. The twelve acres is of an addition to the City of York and within the incorporate limits of the city.

Thus our home adjoins the city on the northwest and our buildings only about one mile from the business center of this unique city of approximately six thousand inhabitants.

The location of the city is a beautiful one. A high average of good and tasteful residences and clean and attractive lawns. Its citizens are far above the average in intelligence and thrift. Christian denominations well represented in membership and appropriate church edifices. Its public schools rank with the foremost, in the face of the fact that the city has not even one saloon. In music, we do not have to go abroad for the best.

The Home Buildings. These are located as follows: the York Farm Cottage, a very commendable frame two-story building, with fifteen rooms and dormitories, where we do our cooking and eating, and our laundry work. Here also are housed under a governess the larger and medium sized boys for whose accommodation there are two ample dormitories, a library and play room.

The main building, which is the new building, a little over one hundred feet north of Farm Cottage is almost seventy feet square on foundation, is three stories above basement, the first story being of brick and second and third stories of wood.

Here are our offices, reception rooms, girls' dormitories and our memorial hall. In the memorial hall we have placed marble tablets on which are engraven in letters of gold the names of persons or societies who contributed one hundred dollars toward the erection of this House Beautiful; and which blessed privilege is made available to all who shall make a like donation for our much needed enlargement.

Jessie Dinger Hospital and Stare Retreat are located on the twelve-acre plot which we have usually designated as *The Hospital Annex*. Jessie Dinger Hospital being across the public road, just east of Farm Cottage, and Stare Retreat is in a similar position as to main building, just across the road east.

Each of these cottages bears the name of a sainted loved one, whom tender, loving survivors have thus beautifully memorialized by placing these precious gifts at the disposal of this children's home. Blessed memory—in influence for

present and future. How like the delightful perfume from the costly alabaster box! Its rich aroma shall ascend to the greeting of Him whose benedictions upon the little ones are as words "graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever."

Farm Buildings. Barn, granaries, implement and carriage houses and stock yards are conveniently arranged at a safe and proper distance southwest from the home buildings. All these buildings are on the southeast corner of our beautiful quarter section of land, thus bringing us to the nearest point of the city.

Health Conditions. Our home site, with respect to natural conditions of sanitation, could hardly be excelled. The lay of the land is sufficiently undulating to effect perfect drainage, so that we have no ponds or stagnant pools in our neighborhood.

Water Supply. We have excellent well water, two first class wells that are never affected by dry weather, each having a good windmill. We are also connected with the city water supply, which is especially gratifying as a more sure safeguard against fire or a water famine. The city water is also first class, from deep wells, outside the city.

Our Home School. We have a good school, two teachers, and grade with the public schools, teaching the grades numbering from first to and including the sixth. Our more advanced pupils attend the city public schools.

Religious Services. We have chapel services, Sabbath school and weekly prayer meeting; also an Epworth League, which is composed of the larger children of the home.

We also make it a rule to take the children to one public preaching service in the city each Sabbath. Of course we cannot take all the children at once, but manage to take at least half each Sabbath, and so alternating from Sabbath to Sabbath.

How Supported. The home is under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, so is national in its scope.

Eligible Children. Orphan and half orphan children, sound in body and mind, over three and under twelve years old, who are not incorrigible, are admissible to the home when there is room.

Application for Admission. In all cases references and recommendations must be given, as a safeguard against unworthy admissions. Experience of the past admonishes us to the exercise of this wise expediency.

For Temporary Care. For the admission of children for temporary support and care in the home, one hundred dollars (\$100) per annum, payable quarterly, in advance, secures this privilege, where our rules for "eligible children" and "application for admission" can be complied with. This furnishes board, clothing and schooling.

THE SUPERINTENDENTS

April 1, 1981, Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock took charge of the home, yet previous to this time they had been interested in planning for and working in its interests. A detailed history is unnecessary, as any citizen of York is well acquainted with the situation of the home at the time they began work, and how they have been

the leaders in bringing the home to its present standard of excellency and beauty. In the face of drouth years here in the West, of crop failures and other hindrances the work has kept moving forward.

A visitor, after inspecting several philanthropic homes for children, declares that: "The Mothers' Jewels' National Home of York is the most homelike in affection bestowed upon the children and received from them of any that has come under my notice.

"Superintendent Spurlock's unremitting care and labor, eagle eyed for all concerned, yield rich fruitage of blessings. Mrs. Spurlock's recuperated health enables her to preside in her habitual gracious manner."

The foregoing are a few items regarding the Mothers' Jewels' Home and the work carried on.

While we can but be glad and rejoice over happy temporal conditions, we realize that right over against this is the higher sphere—mental, soul and spirit—that must dominate all in the spirit of obedience, love and charity. No more can we reach satisfactory and happy results in child culture without assiduous and persistent effort, than might we expect favorable results from grain, vegetable, and fruit growing without the requisite care and culture.

In all features of our work, the ingathering of children, their home culture and preparation for the new home under our system of home-finding, the evidence of aggression and advancement are truly reassuring and hopeful.

We need and earnestly solicit the sympathy and prayers of all in behalf of this work, which in its scope reaches to the uttermost bounds of Christian effort and sympathy—through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours, in His Name, The Superintendents.

While this Institution has passed into the hands of new superintendents the board in charge of this institution have insisted upon a permanent home being acknowledged to Mr. Spurlock in this institution so he may spend his declining years in the atmosphere which he and his revered wife labored for so many years to create.

ITS PRESENT STATUS

We may jump over a period of some seventeen years and secure another "inside" picture of the work of this home, by taking a recital of its conditions, current aims and purposes as given recently by its present matron, Mrs. McAnally, as reported in the York Republican.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs. J. F. McAnally spoke at the Methodist Church before the Woman's Home Missionary Society and men and women interested in Mothers' Jewels' Home. Mrs. McAnally has an enviable reputation through the delivery of addresses on the home in various towns during the last year. She is qualified to talk on the subject because she is vitally interested in it and speaks from a heart filled with love for the children and their needs as well as a mind which has arranged and marshalled vital statistics and facts in an orderly and interesting manner.

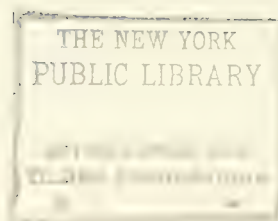
Some of the works of the children were exhibited and a number of children from the home took part in the program. The music was well selected and the voices sweet and melodious. One of the songs given was by three Eskimo children who were brought to this home from Alaska, when the one there burned last winter.



THE MOTHERS' JEWELS' HOME, YORK



RESIDENTS OF I. O. O. F. HOME, YORK



After singing in their native language they sang in English, then Miss Conway sang the same selection to encourage them in music.

The home here is one of six under the control of the National Home Missionary Society, one in Pennsylvania, one in New York, two in Ohio and one in Kansas. The coming year there is to be a similar home built in the South for negro children.

Mrs. McAnally paid a fine tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock, who labored faithfully and well during the years of great financial stress when money was scarce in the early days of the home. Mrs. McAnally has visited district, state and general conferences to present the cause of the home.

Mrs. McAnally called attention to the inadequate care given to the children of the Protestant churches as compared with care given by the Catholic church to their children. So great is the need now that hundreds and hundreds of children are being turned away each year because there is no place for them. When there is room, children of any nationality, Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic, may be admitted to Mothers' Jewels' Home. No question of creed or religion is asked in accepting a child. It is purely and simply a missionary enterprise. It has always been one of the first items in the creed of the home that a child must be loved. No child can grow normally without being loved. Childhood is the riches of the Kingdom of Christ.

Mothers' Jewels' Home is not conducted on institutional lines but as a home where the individuality of the child is not dwarfed. No uniform style of dress, more than there would be in a family. When some church auxiliary wishes to make clothes for the home a list of needs is sent, but no regulations as to color and style. No jealousy is apparent among the children. Perhaps one reason being they do not handle money and have not developed the idea of money values. A ten dollar dress means no more to them than a two dollar one.

The need of the child determines the admission. If there is means sufficient to send a child to boarding school the Home will not accept them.

Some tools given by the widow of a carpenter have formed the basis for work in manual training. The girls are taught fancy work and sewing. Each evening devotions are held at the home. Children go to bed on the installment plan. The matrons tell bed time stories and mother and cuddle the children. There is at all times an effort made to instill good habits that the children may grow into good men and women. Caring for such children is one of the greatest investments that can be made. Christian America is not awake to the great value of childhood saved for the church and humanity. There are now about ninety children enrolled in the home.

I. O. O. F. STATE HOME

An institution of which York is justly proud is the I. O. O. F. State Home. It was founded November 1, 1911, by the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of Nebraska, for the purpose of taking care of aged and indigent members of the order and care and education of orphans of members of the I. O. O. F.

A. G. Pruitt was the first superintendent and Mrs. Lillie Davis the first matron in charge. They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilson. At the present time J. W. Pittman and wife are in charge as superintendent and matron.

The home has been open for the past nine years, during which time it has cared for 197 persons old and young. At the present time it has thirty-four boys and twenty girls, eleven men and four women. The children are kept until they have completed high school. All the children from the home attend the city schools in York. At the home will be found all kinds of games and amusements for the children which is furnished by the lodges from over the state.

The home is located just outside the city limits, being just a mile out from the business district, and is one of the sightliest places that could be found for such an institution. The home farm consists of 160 acres of which eighty acres are under cultivation the balance in alfalfa and pasture. All the produce to supply the home is obtained from the farm. The older boys are taught stock raising and general farm work while the larger girls learn to cook, bake and sew.

It has cost for maintaining the home since it was opened something more than \$125,000. Today the entire plant at conservative figures is valued at a quarter of a million dollars.

The locating board, who took upon themselves the burden of getting this splendid institution into operation, were J. S. Hoagland, George L. Loomis, S. R. Barnes, J. M. Patton, J. A. Cotton, O. O. Snyder, Mary A. Caldwell, Grace E. Haller and Mary Livingston.

The board of trustees serving in 1920 are Mary A. Caldwell, Margaret Holcomb, Iona Nailor, George L. Loomis, J. W. Kelly, J. C. Hannish, Dr. T. W. Bass, E. F. Brailey and Addison E. Wait.

MANAGEMENT APPRECIATED

The appreciation felt for the splendid work accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Pittman in their management of this institution is reflected in the comments of the press at the time of the death recently of Mr. Pittman's father. Another press account of the attitude of those who visit their loved ones and friends who are given a home in this wonderful institution, will shed further light upon the appreciation of this home, and hand a deserved bouquet without waiting to lay it upon the graves of those who are accomplishing this work, when they are no longer with us.

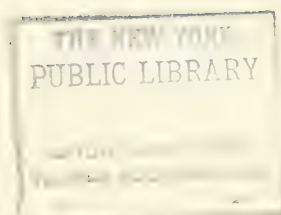
FUNERAL OF E. J. PITTMAN

The funeral of an esteemed citizen, E. J. Pittman, held at the Presbyterian Church Thursday afternoon, March 10, 1920, drew the attendance of many friends and neighbors. Rev. E. E. Emhoff, pastor of the church, and Rev. T. F. B. Smith, a former pastor, had charge of the impressive services. Carl Rosenlof sang three beautiful solos. The members of the city council attended. Members of the Ben Hur order attended and had charge of the ceremony at the grave. The remains were laid at rest in Greenwood cemetery.

Eli J. Pittman was born at Corydon, Indiana, March 9, 1844. He grew to manhood in the town of his birth and married Anna McBride October 30, 1866. Two sons were born to them, B. W. Pittman resides on a farm near York and J. W. Pittman is superintendent at I. O. O. F. home.



STATE I. O. O. F. HOME, YORK



Mr. and Mrs. Pittman removed to Cass County this state, in 1874, and continued to reside there until 1897, when they came to York to make their home.

Mr. Pittman was a charter member of the Ben Hur order. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and an esteemed one. He served three terms as commissioner of streets, being a consistent, efficient and valuable official. He was a loyal citizen, a loving husband and a good father.

The following Brothers from Dorchester visited the home Sunday. All are old time friends of Brother Good: C. J. Caker, Mineo Saunders and Frank R. Means and their wives. They passed a very enjoyable afternoon. At the same time Brother L. F. Skidder and several others from Utica and Waco were shown through the home. Later Mr. and Mrs. L. E. O'Connor of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller, of Havelock, visited the home on a special visit to their nephews and nieces, the children of Brother H. L. Baker, who brought them to the home two weeks ago. They expressed themselves as being especially pleased in the manner that the children are being cared for. It must be very gratifying to the friends of the children who are left under the fostering care of the home that everything is being done for their care and welfare that is possible. And what a source of pleasure and what a load of sorrow and care it must remove from the minds of those parents when they depart, leaving their children; that they can do so with the full assurance that in their absence they will receive the tenderest of care. Is there, or can there be anything more gratifying to the mind of the parent? We at times feel that a very large majority of people do not fully realize what our home is, or of the vast amount of good that it is doing in the cause of fraternity and humanity. When we consider the thousands of orphan children who are bereft of all parental help, care and support, who are annually brought to our homes to be reared and cared for, the number is simply appalling. Then again, how few really appreciate the magnitude of the responsibility that is daily resting on the shoulders of our superintendents and matrons; the care of hundreds of precious young lives, the supervision of their moral and intellectual training, to watch over them in health and nurse them in sickness, in fact, to act the part of parents in every particular and to see that they are so trained and educated that when they arrive at manhood and womanhood, they are fully equipped to go out into the world and successfully fight the battles of life and become honored and respected citizens. It is a noble work and our superintendent and matron should receive all the encouragement, help and assistance that their efforts deserve. And last, but not least, they must consider the welfare of the old residents of the home, those who have passed the meridian of life and fought the great battle and are sitting quietly down amidst peace and plenty, anxiously awaiting to reap the reward of victory. These are among the crowning glories of Odd Fellowship, a thousandth part of which has not yet been told.

WELFARE WORK

In response to a request for meetings to organize York County for welfare work, Dr. Theodore Hansen, who spoke in the Presbyterian Church Sunday evening, held meetings on Sunday in Gresham and Thayer. A committee of twenty-five was called for from the different towns in the county in so far as they could be reached and the meeting was arranged for Tuesday afternoon at the Presby-

terian Church. Doctor Hansen, finding it impossible to be present on Tuesday, Doctor Garrison ably represented him. Gresham sent ten delegates, Benedict one, Bradshaw two, Waco five, York eighteen, Thayer four. Each town in the county is arranging for a local welfare board with its chairman a member of the county board. In a short time the different towns will have arranged their committees and the names will be available for publication. Doctor Garrison, who has been called to Nebraska from Kansas to help in organizing every county in the state, gave a short synopsis of the children's code bill which will be presented to the next Legislature. One thousand dollars was appropriated by the last Legislature to be used in work relating to revision and modification of these bills. It touches the questions of marriage, divorce, raising the legal age of girls from 18 to 21 years, examination of those desiring to marry to be sure both parties are free from venereal disease. It deals with the mentally defective, the prevention of housing children in alms houses, maternity homes, the publication of application for marriage license ten days before the marriage is consummated, law making the father of so-called illegitimate child responsible for the child's support, giving the child the father's name and allowing such child to inherit property same as those born in wedlock.

The temporary chairman was Mr. Herman Diers of Gresham. The permanent chairman is Dr. E. E. Emhoff. Dr. Roop is vice chairman and E. C. Knight is secretary-treasurer.

CHAPTER IX

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS THROUGH YORK COUNTY

RAILROADS (IN 1887)—STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM—YORK COUNTY ROADS (ENGINEER FRED VOYLES)—AUTOMOBILES UPON HIGHWAYS

RAILROADS

The following survey of York's railroad and business prospects in 1887 details the arrival of the "iron steed" in York County.

In the year 1870 the site where now stands the City of York, contained three buildings, two soddies and one frame. In the fall of 1877 the first railroad reached York, being a line of the B. & M. from Lincoln, the state capital. With the coming of the railroad, the steady and uninterrupted growth of York began, until now the people of York can boast of a city doing the largest business of any town in Nebraska having but one line of railroad. With the location of the M. E. College here, some years ago, began the second era of prosperity. The location of the college brought a number of wealthy and influential citizens, whose means and enterprise have been important factors to develop the city, which was marked by destiny to become a great business center. The grand turning era in the history of York may be marked at the close of the past year. Our excellent business prospects induced the Union Pacific Railroad Company to extend their line of road from Stromsburg to York. The Kansas City & Omaha Railroad Company also took the right view of the claims of York for more extended railroad facilities, and at once headed their lines of road from the south to meet the Union Pacific at York. These companies are under contract to put in their division headquarters at York and their shops will also be established here, in the event of the division being located at this place. The grading for both lines of road is nearly completed and will soon be ready for the iron. These roads will be running trains into York by July 1st, and give us connection with Kansas City and St. Louis on the south, and with Denver and the great cities of the west. The Union Pacific via Stromsburg will give York direct competition with Omaha. The crowning stroke of fortune for York was attained when the great Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was secured. A proposition was submitted the first of February to vote bonds for the construction of their road and was voted unanimously through the county. The work of construction has already begun, and it is expected that by October 1st the trains of the great Northwestern Railroad will be running into York.

The line under process of construction is an extension of the company's present line from Fremont via York and Hastings to Denver. Solid trains will

be run from Chicago over this great system via Missouri Valley, Blair and Fremont to York. This road gives York direct communication and competition with Chicago and will prove a bonanza to York and York County. With the building of this road came an influx of speculators who saw in York a city of importance. Real estate, always in good demand, at once took a boom. The record of transfers compares favorably with towns of three times the population and size. New additions are daily being platted and opened to the public. New investors are constantly coming and taking advantage of the present very reasonable prices at which real estate is being offered. The real estate men of York are doing good work to double the population of the city. Instead of raising the price of lots to inflated boom prices, the prices have been kept down and more territory taken in to supply the enormous demand. This gives new investors an opportunity to come here and make a fortune while our home men get rich at the same time.

The town is alive with railroad men and their equipments who are making their headquarters here. York contains more energetic "get up and go" business men than other towns of like proportions in Nebraska. Every man in York has the best interests of the city at heart and to its citizens is due the whole credit of the present prosperity of our city. A more extended notice of York's business men, industrial interests, school facilities, church advantages and public buildings is given elsewhere in this issue of the Democrat. To meet the demand of our people for more extended convenience and advantages, several projects are being put forth. First among these may be mentioned a street railway about four miles in length. A company is now being formed to put this enterprise on foot before snow flies. A complete system of city waterworks will be undoubtedly completed before the close of the present year. In connection with the waterworks will be established an electric light plant, to light the city and business houses. A telephone exchange is also under consideration, and will be one of our enterprises as soon as men and money can bring it about. York is located in the center of the world renowned Garden of the West, and is the only city of importance between Lincoln and Grand Island, a distance of 100 miles. All this great territory is tributary to York, and with our increased railroad facilities, York will become the distributing point for all this vast, rich country. Jobbing and wholesale interests will follow the advent of the railroads, and before another year this city will be the axis, about which all this trade will revolve. Men who have the foresight to invest in York real estate now will reap a golden harvest. In addition to our present railroad facilities, may be mentioned the proposed line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific. This projected line is an extension of the company's present line at Beatrice, to leave the main line at Fairbury and run its road in a northwesterly direction, crossing York County from southeast to northwest, passing through York. This will be known as the Black Hills extension, running direct from Fairbury to the Black Hills to tap the great coal fields of that region. Parties of engineers who have been over the route have strongly recommended the line by way of York, and the probabilities are that it will be built within the year. The Missouri Pacific people have also a line in contemplation, up the West Blue River to York, from Lincoln, the present terminus of their road. Representatives of the company have been repeatedly going over the route, and, we are informed, have advised the building of the line. These two lines, if built, will give York six *distinct lines of railroad*, making York a great



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railroad center of the state. In this general connection the Times of this city very truthfully says:

"The two lines seem to be contesting the inviting field and each is eager to get here first. Swarms of railroad graders with their trains and utensils fill the town, and hotels and boarding houses and livery stables are packed to their utmost capacity. Men with a keen eye to business who know a boom when they see it throng the hotels and crowd the real estate offices. A number of new additions have already been laid out, but the demand for lots has not half been met, and there is an eager scramble for the few yet in the market. And yet *the boom has only just begun*. Prices have advanced but little as yet, and all property is remarkably low. It will undoubtedly double and much of it quadruple in a very short time, as is always the case with real estate under the influence of a western boom. The city is located at the *geographical center* of the county. The location is most auspicious and the site most beautiful. The business portion of the city is situated in the valley of the Beaver, which at this point extends back about a mile from the stream, and from which the ground rises on all sides by a gentle and easy slope to an eminence varying from twenty to sixty or seventy feet. Upon this elevated ground, overlooking the business portion of the city and confronting each other across the valley, are many fine, costly and elegant residences. The selection of this site was exceedingly judicious, and no place this side of Imperial Rome with her seven hills or the Mystic Zion is more beautiful of location.

"As a result of the boom in York, property in the immediate vicinity of the city has also taken an upward rise. As yet this advance is confined to property adjacent to the city. Farm land in the county has not advanced in proportion with tracts of land lying nearer the business center of the city. Suburban real estate is good property and will quadruple in value before the close of this year. All outlying property is commanding good figures and wealthy capitalists of other cities are here anxiously looking over the field with a view of investing, and a number of important investments have been made by men of means who will improve their property making it more valuable. The number of fine residences which surround the city will make all this suburban real estate inside property.

"As an example, in order to show that outside parties have faith in the future of York, we will cite an offer made during the past week, by Omaha parties for a tract of land adjoining the city. The tract in question is an eighty-acre farm for which was offered \$22,000 in hard, cold cash, and the offer was refused by the owner. This property was wanted for the purpose of platting and there was money in it at the price offered. The time for investment, to make a fortune is now, and the man in the East who is content with an income of from six to ten per cent, should take the first train for York and make an investment and double his money within sixty days. There are a number of tracts of land adjoining the city which contain about forty acres each which can be purchased at very reasonable figures. These tracts if platted and put on the market would bring fabulous returns to the plucky investor. The boom which has now struck York is not of the mining excitement class wherein fortunes are made and lost in a day. Our boom is a solid and substantial rise in real estate and property values brought about by the known importance of York as a railroad and business center. Investments made now are safe, there being no danger whatever of a collapse or

set-back in prices. The prospects of the town are all the other way. Property of all kinds will increase in value month by month and year by year as York grows in size, importance and prosperity. There is nothing to be lost, but millions to be made, by prompt and judicious investment in any of the realty in York or vicinity. We do not attempt to write a history of York. Our aim is to do partial justice to the present natural and commercial advantages of our city during our day and generation, and leave the history to other men and other times."

STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Within the past four years, since 1916, a very extensive system of federal and state highway road work has been started in Nebraska. This is designed, within a decade or so, to honeycomb the entire state with a network of solid, well-equipped and continually maintained roads, though a complete system of hard surfaced roads will no doubt be many years arriving in Nebraska. But York County has not been amiss or lagging in this wonderful enterprise. She was one of the first counties in the state to employ a competent engineer, from outside of her borders, to take charge of this work. When her first engineer, Glenn I. Voyles, left, his brother Fred Voyles, took the place, and a report of the work done in 1920 appears a few paragraphs hence in this section of the highway discussion. The first great enterprise in modern highway work in this county was the arrival of the S. Y. A., the launching of which, in 1917, is herein described.

We are advised by Secretary Smith of the Commercial Club, says the Seward Independent-Democrat, that the S. Y. A. short cut application has been allowed by the state highway commissioner and the new highway is an accomplished fact. It is not likely that the majority of our citizens appreciate the permanent benefit this will bring to our community and country. When trails were laid out across the great American desert, they laid out the Mormon trail, along the Platte, the Oregon trail, that ran to the south of us; but when the cut-off trail, on which the Deepwell and other ranches were located in Hamilton County was established, it soon became recognized as the shortest and best of the bunch. This will prove the case when the S. Y. A. is well advertised and its merits properly presented to automobilists.

The S. Y. A. connects the O. L. D. with the Lincoln highway at Grand Island. It runs through three of the best counties in the state and will be kept in a high state of efficiency to which the natural lay of the land and the courses of streams will greatly contribute. The distance is shortened more than seven miles. As we announced last week, green and yellow will be the colors, and in the other counties commissioners and supervisors have taken steps to give it special attention.

In Hamilton County one of our big tractor outfits is already working between this city and the Platte River and it is expected to put the road in the best of condition before the tourist season opens. A movement is on foot to divert the travel to the other Grand Island road until the regular route is ready for travel.

It is estimated that a fund of \$200 will be required to paint the poles and provide about ten thousand folders advertising the merits of the route. These will be sent to all places frequented by tourists from Des Moines to Denver, especially along the line of towns where travel will be likely to be initiated east and west.

YORK COUNTY ROADS

Engineer Fred Voyles

We have our road system in fair shape for winter traffic, considering the previous snow and condition of road-bed at the time this snow fell. The ground was not frozen, and it was rather difficult to remove the snow from the road surface. At present, our road surface is smooth and frozen and we have no difficulty in pushing the snow from the surface. We are somewhat elated at the success of our snow plow. We push through drifts 3 and 4 feet deep on second speed and cut a swath 8 feet wide and within 3 inches of the ground. We came back through and moved the snow 4 feet farther toward the ditch. The secret of the success of this plow is the fact that it raises the snow above the drifts and prevents swedging, a common cause for failure in previously designed snow plows, used on public highways. Mr. C. R. Thomas, our bridge foreman, has the exclusive right to tell you how this plow is made and operated. He is very busy now building a pile driver to be used in the construction of our bridges the coming season.

Patrolmen, Harry Seng and Lee Gillan drove a couple of F. W. D. trucks out from Lincoln, last week. After they had finished their patrol they assisted the other patrols with their roads getting them ready for the snow which came this week.

Harry Seng had the misfortune of getting his hand caught between the rear end of a truck and the maintainer tongue at the north end of Lincoln Avenue, Saturday evening. The truck was moved ahead, releasing Harry. He will be off duty a few days.

We were down over some of the Fillmore and Clay County roads, Sunday. The O. L. D. has some drifts 30 to 40 rods long where we were compelled to wait at the ends when we met other cars.

We plan on having a truck patrol on each division of the state roads, leading out of York, the coming season. We do not presume that all their time will be needed on these state roads, and expect to devote the surplus time on the county system.

The York Republican at the end of 1920 summed up the progress made and the situation of state highway work in York County:

"It is comforting to note from the report of the state engineer that the funds for road work in this county have not been expended by half and that 1921 will be as busy a year in road building as 1920 if not busier. The November bulletin of the state department of public works shows that the total fund available for state and federal road work in York County in 1920 is \$142,896.85. Only \$56,045.79 of that amount has been expended, leaving yet available for road work on state and federal aid roads of the county the sum of \$86,851.06.

"The first part of the fund already expended has been used on the Meridian and Pershing highways, the designated federal aid roads of the county. Since these roadways have been put in good condition it would appear that the next step, unless hard surfacing is to be undertaken, is to designate other roads in the county for federal aid upon which to expend the balance due the county for road improvement.

"Then too there is some prospect that the fund available for county road work will be augmented by changes in the law which will be asked from the forthcoming

session of the Legislature. Under the present statute twenty-five per cent of the auto license fund goes to the state. Many who have given study to the matter are of the opinion that the state is taking too large a proportion, that since the money is derived from York County property owners it should be expended on York County roads, a logical view if there is sufficient money obtainable elsewhere for exclusive state roads.

"The Republican ventures to say that no money expended through state channels has ever brought a higher degree of satisfaction than that spent for road improvements. Better roads are profitable alike to farmer and townsman. They afford pleasure for pleasure seekers and profit for those who need to use the roads for business. The character of the soil in this section is such that splendid roads can be made with small outlay and they can be maintained with a minimum of cost. - Better roads lend dollars to land values, promote local trade and allow more entertainment and social intercourse.

"A fine record of improvement has been made in 1920. The Pershing highway and Meridian road are models of dirt roads. Autoists from near and far have pronounced them the equal of any roads anywhere. A few more miles like them making trunk lines through the county would give this county a road system usable in most any sort of weather.

"The patrol system on the two principal highways has proven to be the most satisfactory as well as the most economical method of keeping the road surfaces in good condition."

AUTOMOBILES UPON HIGHWAYS

There can be but little doubt but that the phenomenal increase in the use of the automobile within the past decade has hastened the progress of the gravel-surfaced and well-finished highway. Until the farmer began to go to town at all times during the week in his automobile, he did not worry about the effect of the road upon horseflesh or metal buggy tires, but its effect upon the gas bill and rubber tires of the automobile are readily comprehended. The automobile has contributed many wonderful influences to the ease, speed, comfort and convenience of the life of the present generation, but like many other goods things, is oftentimes in its use carried to an extreme. An address given during the period of liquidation and financial depression that ensued in 1920-21 for a short time, after the wonderful era of prosperity and high-living of 1919 and 1920 came to a sudden stop in October, 1920, illustrates somewhat this phase of the influence of the automobile also:

"In an address delivered before a local club Chas. A. McCloud gave some facts and figures which were very interesting in connection with his remarks. Mr. McCloud dressed up some simple statistics in a very entertaining fashion. Some one—doubtless it was Bill Nye—said there are three kinds of lies—common lies, damned lies, and statistics. The facts which Mr. McCloud presented did not come under any of these categories, so we give them in part.

"The address was an encouragement of thrift and saving. The speaker attempted to find some reasons for falling savings accounts and red bank balances. He succeeded admirably. There are owned in York County 3,850 automobiles. The number of cars is great enough so that if there were a sudden disaster or invasion by reason of which the inhabitants of the county were compelled to flee in haste

there would be sufficient automobiles to accommodate all and none would be crowded. In fact, there would be only 4.7 persons to a machine. Besides that there would be 150 trucks to carry all necessary baggage and ten trailers at least for small belongings.

"These self same cars consume annually 500,000 gallons of gasoline and 40,000 gallons of lubricating oil. The depreciation annually for each machine is conservatively estimated at \$300 and the expense of repairs and upkeep \$100 more. So that taking the totals and adding them together the total of operating cost and expense in automobiles in York County alone is \$1,976,000 annually.

"Add to that total sum the time which people lose from their business in riding around and the other expenses which are the natural and inevitable accompaniment of auto riding and a staggering total is reached.

"It does not take the practiced eye of a banker to realize that the automobile has taken a terrific toll of our finances and knocked the word thrift clear out of the home curriculum in hundreds of instances in York County particularly and the nation in general. It is clear enough to any citizen who has even a stray touch on the public pulse."

CHAPTER X

AGRICULTURE IN YORK COUNTY

AGRICULTURE—REVIEW IN 1887—THE GRASSHOPPERS—"WHEN THE GRASSHOPPERS CAME," MRS. D. T. MOORE—WORK WAS THE PASSWORD—THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE—LIVE STOCK INTERESTS—OTHER ACTIVITIES—AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS—1920 FAIR—POULTRY SHOW—STATISTICS OF PRODUCTION, 1914-1915-1916-1917-1918—MODERN FARM LIFE—FARM ORGANIZATIONS—YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the great, predominating and important business of York County. It is in the heart of one of the richest agricultural realms in the land. With the rich, black loess soil that predominates here, man has not yet been able to estimate the wealth-producing qualities of this region.

The limitations of a chapter on the history of agriculture in York County would be the sky. But the effort will only be made to gather, in this short chapter, data of various characters tending to show the difficulties, progress, variety and accomplishments of the agricultural interests of the county.

The gradual settlement of the county has been very minutely followed in the preceding chapters; the hardships, trials, tribulations, disappointments, and many of the joys, successes and happiness of the early settlers have been more adequately portrayed in their own words than anyone of a succeeding generation could hope to cope with. But to follow somewhat the statistical progress, to take the various perspectives illustrating the many manifestations in stock shows, corn shows, county fairs, institutes, alliances, and other forms of joint activity used during the various decades to bring out the co-operative spirit that has marked York County people, will remain for this present chapter.

It is hoped that a fleeting glimpse may be given of the far cry from the dugout, the soddy, the log house, the small, square frame cottage, to the fine mansions, with practically every modern convenience; from the footpath, the horseback journey, the surrey and family plug, to the crude automobile of twenty years ago, and down to the fleeting palace cars that carry the farmer to the city within a few minutes of the time the desire to go to town enters his mind; from the dingy lantern to the modern "electric power plant on wheels"; from the hard pumping or waiting for the windmill to modern electric pumping plants—all of these changes are more than matters of passing note, though we can only flash them as if on a motion picture screen.

First, a review of agricultural York County, prepared in 1887, will tend to link up the stories of the pioneers in former chapters with the colder, harder facts about to be reached.

York County and Nebraska is just now exciting considerable interest throughout the East. Eastern renters and small tenant farmers who contemplate making a change of location should read the following well written and accurate account of the natural and other advantages of York County, which we are permitted to use by courtesy of the proprietors of the York Times:

Thirty successive years of successful cultivation and thirty abundant harvests have demonstrated that the soil and climate of Nebraska are peculiarly adapted to agriculture, and have dispelled all misgivings and doubts that may ever have existed in regard to the future of this great commonwealth. Nebraska is no longer an experiment. Its resources are as fully understood and its soil and climate as fully tested as those of any state in the Union. We know what she is and can safely and with certainty foretell her future. The vast tide of immigration which has been increasing in volume each year, until our state has a population of more than a million people, was never as great as it will be this year. Men of education, wealth and refinement; men of business and of energy and wisdom are coming to make a permanent home in the pleasantest and more favored portion of the West, and to make a fortune where wealth is easily and quickly acquired. Are you one of this number? Are you dissatisfied with your present location or occupation, and are you thinking of seeking another home? Have you decided to go West and look at the country and see for yourself whether or not the stories told of this fertile country and its magic cities are true? If so, this paper is especially intended for you, and will repay you well for reading, for it tells you of the very best country and the pleasantest and more prosperous city of its size in all the trans-Missouri country. No one should decide upon a location in the West without visiting York. Thousands of men have traveled the state over, and we have yet to find the first man who will say that he has seen a better county or a more enterprising and prosperous city than this within the state.

York County is situated in the center of the most beautiful, and, all things considered, the best agricultural district to be found in the fertile and far-famed "West."

Measuring from the center of the county, it is 92½ miles to the Missouri River, and from the same point it is 60 miles to the Kansas state line, while the Platte River is 33 miles north and 36 miles west in a direct line.

The extreme southeast portion of the county is as near the center of the celebrated South Platte country as it is possible to locate the center of a section of country, the extent of which is so indefinite. The county is 24 miles square and contains 575 sections, or 368,640 acres of land. Upon the "divides," or plateaus, the surface of the country is very level and smooth, but in most places slightly undulating, and as one travels toward the streams he finds the surface traversed by ravines, or "draws." Very few of these depressions are so deep or abrupt as to forbid cultivation. A wagon, plow or reaper can be driven along the sides and bottoms of nearly all of them. They are a natural shelter for stock and produce the very best hay, and by many are considered an advantage rather than otherwise.

The West Blue River traverses the southern portion of the county, running a zigzag course, the general direction being from west to east. The stream furnishes excellent water power, and there are now located upon it some of the best mills in

the state, three of them being in York County. There are a number of mill sites along the Blue yet unoccupied.

Beaver Creek crosses the west line of the county near its center north and south, and runs nearly due east about half way across the county, when it turns southward and runs in a southeasterly direction until it meets the West Blue about one and one-half miles east of the county line. There is one small mill at present on the Beaver in York County, which is located near the City of York. Lincoln Creek also traverses the north half of the county from west to east, and furnishes a number of good mill sites within the county. There is already one fine mill upon this creek.

The Blue River, the least important of the four streams mentioned, traverses the northeast portion of the county. These streams furnish water for stock and drive machinery all the year round. They are skirted by a belt of timber, in some places very light and heavy in others. The valleys traversed by these streams are very beautiful and in many places the view is almost enchanting. Those who talk of the dull and lifeless scenery of the western plains have never visited this county or have no appreciation of the beautiful.

The soil throughout the entire county is uniformly rich and productive. The divides or uplands seem equally fertile with the valleys, and wherever in the county land is well farmed and crops are well tended a good yield is almost assured. Since the first settlement of the county a failure of crops has never been experienced here. We do not mean to say that every year there has been a good yield of all varieties of products. There have been partial failures of one or more of the cereals, but there has always been a harvest. But these trials and privations which have always attended the pioneer have been reported to our eastern friends as incidents peculiar to this western country, and have cast a shadow over the entire history of this and all other counties of the state.

There are people in the East now—and they are no insignificant minority—who actually believe that the wind blows here a perpetual tornado, transporting everything that is loose; that it never rains and seldom sprinkles here; that the grasshoppers make us annual visits, devouring what wind and drouth have not destroyed. The same could be told with equal truth of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, or any other western state. Minnesota has suffered more than three times as much from grasshoppers as our state ever has, while in Iowa, Kansas and Wisconsin their ravages have been greater than here. We feel safe in saying that twenty-five per cent of the last crop of this county would amount to more than all that has ever been destroyed by grasshoppers within its limits.

So much for this great bugbear.

We have a good, copious rainfall every year, and the soil and sub-soil are such that the earth is always moist just below the surface. No matter how dry the air or how hot the sun, if one takes the trouble to look he will find moisture an inch or two below the surface. So it is that during a long, dry season, when crops in other states are literally burned up and killed, they continue to grow and look green and healthy here. We say candidly that the South Platte country is less affected with drouth than any section we have ever seen in any state. The record will bear us out in the statement that Nebraska has suffered less in the last decade from winds and severe storms than any other state west of Lake Michigan. Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas have all suffered con-

siderably from cyclones during the last few years, but none has ever disturbed the peaceful rest of this South Platte country. The wind does blow here some, and we would hardly desire, even if it were possible, to live in a country where it did not. In summer a fresh, cooling breeze starts up at about the setting of the sun, which cools the atmosphere insomuch that there is very seldom a night, even in the warmest weather, in which one cannot sleep comfortably. So vastly different from the sultry nights through which we have sweat and suffered in states farther east! The winters are usually short and very little real cold weather is experienced. We have some very sharp weather, but only for two or three days at a time.

The climate is milder than in the same latitude east of us.

The wells of York County afford us a bounteous supply of nice soft water. Though the water varies somewhat in different wells, and that, too, in wells located in the same vicinity and neighborhood, yet the water in all of them is very clear and cool, and in most of them quite soft, so much so that the water is used for laundry purposes without breaking. Wells range from twenty to one hundred feet in depth, according to the altitude of the surface, as the water is found in all parts of the county at or near the same level. A great many farmers have windmills for raising the water, which are also utilized by some of them to grind feed, turn grindstones, fanning mills and corn-shellors.

York County offers no inducement now to the man who is seeking a free home on the public domain. He will have to go many miles farther west, as all the government land has been taken many years ago. These claims have grown into fine farms, well cultivated and improved, beautiful groves, fine orchards and comfortable and even elegant buildings can be seen on every hand. Every foot of available land is under cultivation or in meadow or pasture. The county has a population of more than twenty thousand people, about four-fifths of whom reside on farms. More than five-sixths of the farmers within the county own the land they till. Thus it will be seen that instead of a population of impecunious renters we have one of real estate owners, each one cultivating his own estate. Turn your attention where you will, nowhere will you find within the bounds of civilization a county which has developed so rapidly, and which has been attended with so few privations and reverses as this. A beautiful, healthy and mild climate, a mellow and productive soil, and an intelligent and industrious class of citizens have combined to verify this statement.

For a century in this country the strides of civilization have gradually been westward, until now they have spanned the continent. Seventy or eighty years ago the hardy and dauntless pioneers invaded the wilds of New York State and Ohio, where for years they waged a hard and often doubtful warfare with famine, disease and a thousand foes to civilization that lurked in the deep recesses of those almost impenetrable forests. Many of our readers were brought up by parents reared amidst those privations which are now legends of suffering and endurance, and you know what opportunities for acquiring an education were offered there, as well as for religious and moral culture.

These civilizing influences were conspicuous by their absence. The development of this county would have been only the recreation of a summer's day to those old iron-willed pioneers, strong of hand and heart, dauntless and indefatigable, who wore out their lives opening up small farms and building homes in New York and Ohio. More than fifty years ago the "prairie schooner" landed upon the rich

and beautiful prairie of Illinois and there discharged cargo and passengers; but thirty years had elapsed before as much improvement had been made in that state as has been accomplished in York County in twelve years.

More than two hundred years ago colonies were established in Northern Wisconsin, and settlements have been kept up ever since. Yet the country in the vicinity of these, the first footprints of civilization in the West, is today primeval in comparison with York County.

Land here is very cheap in comparison with that farther east, and, considering quality and improvements, the prices at which some farms are sold seems surprisingly low. To the man of moderate means, and to anyone who wishes to get a large farm and do a more extensive business than is possible East on the same amount of capital, many splendid inducements are offered in York County. One acre of land here will produce a larger crop with much less labor than with the same amount of land in any state farther east. And yet the price of one acre in most parts of Illinois will buy two or three acres here.

Of course this state of things cannot long exist. As soon as the facilities for shipping are equal to those farther east, and as soon as it becomes generally known throughout the country that we have as good society, as good schools, as many and as large churches, and as pleasant surroundings in every respect as any county in any state farther east, men will come in here to take advantage of the genial climate, productive soil and uniformly good roads, and the price of land will soon be somewhere near its value. Now is the time to take advantage of the extremely low price of real estate. A flood of immigration will reach this county this season. The two new railroads now under construction to York will soon be completed to this point, and the tide of immigration will be turned, more than ever, in this direction. Land will undoubtedly increase from twenty-five to fifty per cent this season, and then it will be far less than the property is really worth. By coming to York County and investing your money either in city or country property you can undoubtedly realize a profit of from twenty-five to fifty per cent in a few months. If you have never seen a western boom you don't know what it is like, and will never have any ideal unless you see it once and turn your money over once in two or three weeks and make about fifty per cent each time. That is the way York is going to boom this summer. There can be no mistake about it. Property is selling at one-third its real value, and it will go whizzing now until it reaches a fair standard of value.

THE GRASSHOPPERS

Mention has been made frequently in the earlier pages of this story of York County of the first serious grasshopper invasion in the summer of 1874.

In the latter part of July, 1876, the early settlers were visited by a new and unlooked for calamity of grasshoppers in a much greater force. In the afternoon of a hot day, July the 20th, a mysterious cloud appeared in the northern horizon, and all were wondering what it was until suddenly the awful cloud of grasshoppers covered the country, so thick at times that the sun was darkened, and all gardens and green vegetation was soon devoured; much of the small grain was in the shock and mostly saved, to the great comfort of the pioneer settlers; the grain that was standing was soon ruined, the grasshoppers would bite the straw off just below

the head; after they had done all the damage they could they filled the ground with eggs and left. The next spring the eggs began hatching and the settlers were filled with alarm for the coming crops, and every device imaginable was made for catching young grasshoppers. A petition was filed with the County Board of Supervisors asking them to take measures to exterminate the young grasshoppers. The county board met in special session April 25, 1877, and Book No. 1, page 470, shows the following proceedings:

"After deliberating upon the subject the following resolution was adopted by the board, to-wit:

"Whereas, the grasshoppers are now hatching out in large numbers, and believing that the interests of the county demand an immediate action by the Board of County Commissioners to encourage the destruction of these pests, it is hereby resolved by the Board of County Commissioners: First, that all persons in the county are hereby called upon to turn out and kill and destroy grasshoppers. Second, that for all grasshoppers caught and killed within the limits of the several road districts in the county and delivered to the respective road supervisors they shall give receipts every Friday afternoon, and shall at once annihilate the grasshoppers by burning. Third, Supervisors shall receive and receipt for grasshoppers every Friday afternoon, and shall at once annihilate them by burning. Fourth, on or before the second day of July each supervisor shall make and return to this board, in writing and under oath, a report of the amount of grasshoppers delivered to and burned by them. Fifth, the holders of supervisors' receipts shall be entitled to pay by the county board as follows: For grasshoppers delivered on or before May 18, 1877, the sum of two dollars per bushel, in county warrants, and for grasshoppers delivered after that date and on or before June 1, 1877, the sum of one dollar per bushel in county warrants."

August 11, 1877, we find the following proceedings in book No. 2, at page 15:

"The following accounts were audited and allowed by the board, to-wit:

Jas. Seaman, 2 bushels grasshoppers burned.....	\$4.00
J. P. Gandy, 2 bushels grasshoppers burned.....	4.00
F. M. Ross, 1 bushel grasshoppers burned.....	2.00
S. E. Gandy, 1/2 bushel grasshoppers burned.....	1.00
L. J. Gandy, 1 bushel grasshoppers burned.....	2.00
W. Young, 1 1/2 bushels grasshoppers burned.....	3.50
Jamieson, 1/2 bushel grasshoppers burned.....	1.50
H. Kelley, 2 bushels grasshoppers burned.....	2.00

Board adjourned,

H. S. BURTCH,

D. DOAN,

B. WOOLMAN.

County Commissioners."

Attest:

F. W. LIEDTKE,

County Clerk."

The Village of York was at that time liberal, patriotic and interested in the prosperity of the county as a whole, and procured devices for catching grasshoppers and used them in the town and country, catching great quantities of grasshoppers and piling them upon the courthouse square in great piles and burning

them free of charge. Mr. H. C. Kleinschmidt tells us he has seen grasshopper piles on the public square nearly four feet high when they were small, and that a bushel of young grasshoppers would make more than a hundred bushels of grown grasshoppers, that one grasshopper egg would hatch out five or six young grasshoppers.

Much sympathy was created in the cities east of us by reports of the needs of the early settlers, and wheat, corn flour, potatoes, beans and many things that were badly needed and greatly appreciated by the old settlers were received, and carloads of clothing, consisting of swallowtail coats, plug hats, quaker bonnets, hoop skirts and other old cast-off clothing was received that furnished a great deal of amusement to the old settlers, and was a great relief to the donors and brought in free by the railway company.

The long, cold wet spells, contributed by a kind providence, did more to rid the country of the grasshoppers than all the devices of man.

The misfortunes of the early settlers created a bond of sympathy, destroyed selfishness, and made all friends and neighbors.

We now give a graphic account of one of those who experienced this terrible invasion:

WHEN THE GRASSHOPPERS CAME

By Mrs. D. T. Moore

One afternoon during the harvest season of 1874 our family, consisting of four members and two visitors, making six altogether, went from our home in the valley of Lincoln Creek to the home of Mr. Charles Keckley on the hill, where we were invited to partake of the hospitality of Mr. Keckley and his sister, the late Mrs. Bonar. We were feeling in just the right spirit for a good social time and a rest, as our harvest was over and we were ready to help our neighbors even to the extent of taking supper with them. While still lingering at the table we noticed that it was growing darker in the west than the time of day would warrant. Fearful of a sudden storm which often took us unawares, the men went to investigate. Nothing indicated a storm, except the darkening of the western sky and an ominous roaring which was alarming. The men climbed to the roof of the house—did I say it was a sod house?—to further investigate. And there they came, by the millions, the undesirable newcomers. We learned a day later that devastation lay behind them. The harvest was especially good that year but harvesters were few in number, and even though a few had utilized Sunday to save their crops, many fields were still uncut—these the grasshoppers laid waste, then ate the growing corn and garden, leaving nothing but tomatoes and tobacco behind them. But here they came, and as we saw them settle upon our neighbors' cornfields and gardens, our heart sank within us, for we knew our fate was the same. As we proceeded on our way home, much sadder than when we left a few hours before, we saw every stem of grass, every garden plant—our splendid garden which had been our pride and source of supply all summer—and the cornfields and trees all covered black with the army of grasshoppers, where they had settled for the night and for so long as there was anything for them to eat. It was little use to try to save anything, but a few trees in the front yard, to which much care had been given and which if saved would be permanent, were chosen for the

experiment, and no sooner were the pests well settled than a bucketful of cold water from the hands of the man of the house would disturb the repose of that particular bunch, and by persistent effort a few of our little shade trees were saved to grow another year. It was almost more than we could believe possible, where everything had been growing, and green was the prevailing hue, in a few hours to see here black stems and corn stalks, and those who lost their ripened grain were worse off.

We do not like to dwell upon hardships, but the grasshopper year was one of those which tried men's souls and the courage of many deserted them, and rather than see those dependent upon them suffer they gave up and went back to their old homes. Those who remained and "stayed by the stuff" were well rewarded. The following winter was a hard one for man and stock, no vegetables of any kind were saved, and for a farmer's wife to cook a meal without potatoes was almost impossible, but we did it the grasshopper year. One substitute was whole wheat mush fried brown and eaten with milk. The wheat was taken to the mill and ground coarsely as feed for the stock, horses, cows and hogs; all seemed to thrive upon it, and I know we never tasted more tender or sweeter meat than our hogs produced the "Grasshopper Year." But to go back to our own rations, from this coarsely ground wheat we sifted the finer portions and used it as a variation from the white flour. We did not even have corn meal as I remember; there were "Yankee" or navy beans as plentiful then as they are now. But the potatoes were the most missed vegetable. I remember when we went to take a Sunday dinner with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Read and I saw the dish of mashed potatoes placed upon the table I could scarcely wait, and I have no recollection of the other dishes which were accompaniments to and no doubt all as good in their way as were the potatoes. I do not know where they got their potatoes either.

We lived through the winter and when spring came were ready to begin over. Only there was no seed of any kind at hand, and this was the time and place to ask and take assistance from any who were able and willing to give it; and there are those who no doubt could tell the story better than I.

We were in fear of a return of the grasshoppers as of the horde of young ones which might hatch out, but every precaution was taken and crops were raised again, and we were glad we were citizens of Nebraska.

WORK WAS THE PASSWORD

Some of the quaint humor that pervaded in the press during the decades of the '70s and '80s is well worth preservation in a work of this character. The following excerpt is taken from the Lincoln State Journal but reflects what would have been the words of many a successful pioneer of York County if he had taken the occasion to explain away the difficulties of his life and the hopelessness which many people attributed to success in Nebraska:

When Andrew Axlewheel first came to Nebraska he had nothing but a pair of tearful-eyed mules, a wagon, a plow and a few other implements. He looked around on acres of unbroken sod, whistled "Grandfather's Clock" in a plaintive tone, and went to work. Until his dugout was completed he used to sleep in his wagon, wrapped in a horse blanket, had numerous agreeable dreams, and enjoyed life just as though he dwelt in marble halls with vassals and serfs by his side. He hitched up the mournful mules and went to work without pausing to consider whether it

would pay or not. All the time he used to sing the old songs, so that people used to wonder what made him feel so good. He would get up in the morning and rake around for his boots, and having found them he would be out and at work long before Ezra Saurian, his nearest neighbor, thought of crawling from his virtuous couch. One day, years after that, Andrew was riding on a patent plow hauled by three ideal horses. He was smoking a good cigar, and he could afford it. He was the owner of all the land about him, the elegant house in the distance, the cattle on the hills and divers and sundry other valuables, and he had a bank account as long as a clothes line. He paused at the end of a furrow to rest his horses, and was about to light a fresh cigar when his neighbor Ezra appeared and said: "I've come to say good-bye. There ain't no use er kickin' against luck, and that's what I've been doin' fur nigh onto twelve years. So I'm goin' back to Injiana, an' I'll be danged glad to get shed of this country." And Andrew answered: "You are very wise, Ezra. You're not cut out to make a success in the West, and I doubt if you'd be a radiant success anywhere. You are too fond of sitting on the fence and whittling and telling what you would do if you were running the government; and while you are talking of what you would do, your hogs are wasting away for something more substantial to eat than the Nebraska atmosphere, which is a good thing, to be sure, but rather light as a nerve food. And while you explain different schemes for reducing the surplus your horse is eating a hole through the side of the barn in order to assuage its hunger. You can tell about the tariff on wool and other things, but you haven't the knack of overpowering the tall and stately sunflower that shades the larger part of your farm. If you would pursue the deadly potato bug with the same alacrity which characterizes you when you hear the dinner bell, you would have more to eat in winter. There is only one way to get there with both feet, Ezra—work. If the drouth lasts so long that you have to moisten the creeks by running a street sprinkler over them, work. Roll up your sleeves like a little man, and tighten your belt and sail in as though you meant to win. But you're not much on the sail, and I'm afraid you'll never reform. To go back East is probably the best thing you can do, and while you are away I will remember you in my dreams. And I will continue to add to the charms of my bank account, and one of these days you will see a special train passing through Indiana on its way to the sea; and if you will look closely at one of the windows of the parlor car, you will see me looking out with a smile of love and forgiveness on my placid face."

THE ALLIANCE

York County farmers were in the very vanguard of the early movement of farmers' organizations, when the farmers felt they must get into the political scramble to get the results they wished. The York Tribune of February 17, 1881, described the first Farmers' Alliance as follows:

THE FIRST FARMERS' ALLIANCE

The first Farmers' Alliance organized in Nebraska was organized by a small band of farmers of West Blue Precinct, York County, in June, 1880. The few farmers who met and bound themselves together by mutual ties to fight for their

rights little thought that in less than nine months from that time their brother farmers in every county in the state would be fighting with them through the agency of the Alliance.

The first alliance was called the "Monitor" Alliance, and its membership could have been counted upon your fingers, but today its influence is felt in every county in the state.

Thayer Alliance. The farmers of Seward Precinct organized an alliance on the evening of Monday, February 7, 1881, with a good membership. This alliance is No. 78. The following were the temporary officers: R. B. Price, chairman; John H. Parker, secretary. The officers chosen for the year are: President, Peter Ellis; vice president, S. F. Frazey; secretary, R. B. Price; treasurer, Daniel Franks. The organization meets every Wednesday evening.

The year 1881 and succeeding years witnessed rapid organization through York County under the Farmers' Alliance movement, which lasted for a while and then as rapidly subsided.

Not all of the interest of York County agriculturally has been devoted to grain raising. From the very start live stock played an important part. The early organization of the live stock interests was portrayed by a meeting in February, 1887.

Pursuant to call issued some time since, between forty and fifty live stock shippers met at the Exchange Building in South Omaha yesterday afternoon for the organization of a live stock shippers' association. The meeting was called to order and Dave Anderson of Columbus, who, by the way, is the originator of the scheme, was temporarily appointed chairman. There was a good deal of discussion regarding the various grievances against which the live stock shippers are forced to contend. Dibble of York, Wiggins of Columbus, Virgin of Utica, Smith of Friend, Willett of Albion, Weyant of Germantown, and Foley of Blair were appointed a committee on constitution and by-laws. A committee on credentials was appointed, consisting of Alter of Grand Island, Stevens of Waterloo, and Morrison of York. After a recess of half an hour, during which time the committee met, the following officers were elected: President, H. B. Dibble, York; first vice president, D. Anderson, Columbus; second vice president, Isaac Alter, Grand Island; third vice president, H. Smith, Friend; secretary, John Wiggins, Columbus; treasurer, John G. Smith, Blair; directors, W. E. Walton, Genoa; A. C. Virgin, Utica; William Rozeyenkaup, Bennett.

A resolution was adopted objecting to the rough and careless manner in which hogs are handled at South Omaha, and to paying \$1.00 per bushel for corn to be thrown into the filth in the pens, where the hogs cannot even find it, under the guise and pretense of feeding the hogs.

Wiggins, Barstow and Dibble were appointed to represent the association at the meeting of the stock breeders' association to be held on February 8th at Seward.

The association will be known as the Nebraska Live Stock Shippers' Association and will have for its object the protection of the legitimate live stock shippers. The following was drawn up and signed:

We, the undersigned live stock shippers, hereby pledge ourselves to support this association and upon payment of \$1.00 and signing these articles are hereby constituted charter members of this association: H. B. Dibble, York; H. Smith, Friend; James Foley, Blair; Frank Willett, Albion; A. W. Virgin, Utica; Wolsey

Weyant, Jr., Germantown; John Wiggins, Columbus; John A. Smith, Blair; Isaac Alter, Grand Island; D. Anderson, Columbus; S. Beveredge, Fremont; John Primers, Grand Island; B. F. Stilley, Tobias; W. B. Morrison, York; Bennett Erwin, Exeter; M. B. Sullivan, Spaulding; A. F. Nihart, Rising; A. H. Nelson, Utica; A. W. Behm, Cortland; H. Ford, Marquette; G. W. Hoffman, Genoa; John Lewis, Eagle; B. King, Bradshaw; W. H. Barstow, Aurora; W. E. Walton, Genoa.

After signing the roll the meeting adjourned until the third Wednesday in February.

A few Iowa shippers, mistaking the call for a general meeting, came over to join but were barred out. Among the number were W. C. Potter and John Rae, Corning, Iowa. These gentlemen talk strongly of issuing a call for a meeting of the Iowa shippers.

The York County Cattle Feeders' Association met and organized in the room over the Democrat office. The following York County feeders were members of the association: Charles R. Keckley, D. N. Blood, Thomas Price, G. F. Ingalls, A. C. Eberhardt, G. W. Mayo, D. C. Kuns, William Meradith, G. W. Bowers, A. B. Coddington, David Price, M. P. Harrison, J. R. Morrison, D. S. Davis, J. M. Gardner, J. B. Brooks, L. H. Wheeler, E. A. Butterfield, D. S. Zimmerman, John Meagher, David I. Hunter, W. B. Morrison, W. H. Newcomer, S. A. Myers, E. A. Wells, C. H. Post, J. C. Lenox, and W. H. Reader. The following are the officers elected: President, J. P. Miller; vice president, D. N. Blood; secretary, F. K. Atkins; treasurer, D. Kuns, and an executive committee consisting of Rev. D. S. Davis, S. A. Myers and W. B. Morrison. The object of the association is stated in article II of the constitution:

"The object of the association shall be to advance the interests of the association in buying, selling and shipping cattle; also in borrowing money for feeding purposes."

The annual meeting of the Bee Keepers' Association of York will be held in the supervisor's room at the courthouse in York, at 1:00 p. m. on Saturday, December 20, 1890, to elect officers for the ensuing year and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The order of exercises will be as follows: Call to order, roll call, secretary's report, treasurer's report, president's address, receiving members, election of officers, miscellaneous business. Five minute addresses by E. A. Butterfield, R. E. Leach, Seymour Spellman, John Tewal, E. A. Wells and others. Every person in Nebraska interested in bees and honey, and especially the ladies, are invited to meet with us.

R. R. RYAN, *President*.

L. D. STILSON, *Secretary*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Only an excerpt or two for each class of activity may we give space for, but the horticultural interests have played an important part in this county. Corn shows, farmers' institutes, harvest picnics and the work of the County Fair Association carry out these demands.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING AT YORK

The summer meeting of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society will be held this year in York, July 19th and 20th. The sessions of the society will be held in the District Court room. The official program has just been issued and shows that the meeting will be one of unusual interest.

The exercises will open Wednesday morning the 19th, with an address of welcome by Mayor Sovereign, to which the response will be made by President Christy of the society. George F. Corcoran, president of the Commercial Club, will extend the greeting on behalf of the business men of the city. Charles A. Scott, superintendent of the Dismal River Reserve, will have the subject "Work of the United States Forest Service in Nebraska," and being a man of national reputation in tree and forest lore will be well worth hearing. Mr. Keyser of the state university will talk on the "Need of Horticulture Education in the Schools of Agriculture." C. H. Green of Fremont will have the interesting subject, "The Flower Garden," and everyone will want to hear Rev. C. S. Harrison on the "Present Outlook for Horticulture." The subject, "Small Fruits," which is a very live subject this year, will be handled by President Christy of Johnson, in a manner that every farmer should hear. Mr. Christy has made a great success in this line and his information will be worth acquiring. In the evening Hon. E. Von Forrell of Aurora will talk on "Horticulture Education." To close the first day's session will be an address by J. H. Hadkinson of Omaha on "Ornamental Decoration of Home Grounds." Mr. Hadkinson should know something of this interesting subject, as he very ably filled the position of superintendent of ornamental decoration of the grounds at the Omaha, Buffalo and St. Louis expositions. His address should be of special interest to town people, but country people will also enjoy it and get much good from this gentleman's experience and knowledge of this valuable topic.

On Thursday Mr. G. A. Marshall of Arlington will talk on the homely subject of "Apples." Prof. R. A. Emerson, who occupies the chair of horticulture in the state university, will have for the subject of his address, "Ornamental Planting of School Grounds," and A. J. Brown of Geneva will discuss the subject, which is a very practical one, "Hardy Fruits from South-Central Nebraska." Prof. J. A. Parks has arranged for the musical program, and the exercises will be interspersed by musical numbers arranged by Mr. Parks, which should insure the success of the entertainment part of the program. The Commercial Club is looking after the arrangements of the meeting, and will do their best to entertain all visitors. The public is cordially welcomed to all meetings. With the harvest over there should be a good attendance from both country and city.

CORN EXHIBIT

The first corn show ever held in York County occurred in the County Court room on last Monday. Great interest was shown both by business men and farmers, and it is hoped that such a display will become a permanent institution. There were fifty-seven entries of not less than twenty ears each. The following are the varieties shown:

Large Yellow Dent, Sweet Hominy, Stowell's Evergreen (sweet), Small Yellow

Dent, Small White Dent, Mammoth Sweet, Golden Beauty (yellow), Lang's White Dent, Leaning Yellow Dent, Ninety-day Small Yellow, Red, Mammoth Keppel Yellow, Early White, Yellow Gourd Seed, Calico, Bloody Butcher, Mixed Dent, Legal Tender (yellow), Flour (white), Einsel (yellow), Queen's Golden, Red Rice and White Rice pop corn.

There were four samples brought in too late for entry. There were also samples of wheat, oats and grass seed.

Large numbers visited the exhibit during the day and all expressed themselves as well pleased with the show.

Messrs. Metcalf of York, Fitzpatrick of Charleston, and Vanderveer of McCool were selected as judges and awarded the premiums as follows as per report of committee:

Premiums Awarded

Large Yellow Dent

Score Points

1st—No. 51. Harvey Pickrel, Waco, Einsel Yellow.....532½

2d—No. 37. O. N. Hurst, York, Large Yellow..... 530½

Small Yellow Dent

1st—No. 17. Willie Harrison, York..... 545

2d—No. 33. J. L. Richardson, York..... 510

2d—No. 40. A. Nickle, York..... 510

Large White Dent

1st—No. 19. S. Spellman, York, Large White..... 555

2d—No. 46. J. R. Porter, Benedict, Flour White..... 535

Small White Dent

1st—No. 15. J. W. Boston, York, Small White..... 545

2d—No. 34. J. L. Richardson, York, Small White..... 530

Red Dent (Bloody Butcher)

1st—No. 20. S. Spellman, York 515

2d—No. 25. S. M. Carlin, York..... 495

Mixed Dent

1st—No. 31. George Fair, McCool, Calico..... 515

1st—No. 49. Edward Garner, York, Mixed Yellow..... 515

2d—No. 39. Aug. Blaseng, Gresham, Mixed Yellow..... 495

White Flint Hominy

1st—No. 2. W. Wolgamuth, York 540

2d—No. 24. S. M. Carlin, York..... 481½

Sweet Corn

1st—No. 10. W. H. Reader, York, Mammoth Sweet..... 505

2d—No. 3. E. A. Butterfield, York, Stowell's Evergreen..... 485

Pop Corn

1st—No. 54. J. C. Robertson, Waco, Queen's Golden..... 510

2d—No. 56. H. W. Johnson, Waco, Red Rice..... 480

The Farmers' Institute held at Waco February 20th and 21st, 1908, was a complete success. All speakers at the Institute were capable of filling their place on the stage. They were also well versed upon the subjects of which they

spoke. Music was mostly furnished by the Waco High School which everybody enjoyed to the fullest extent. The officers for the ensuing year were elected and voted to hold the institute three days next year, as follows: Two days for state speakers and one day for discussing subjects that may come before the meeting by home talent. Everybody is always welcome at these meetings of the Farmers' Institute and the officers will be glad to receive all help offered to them that is beneficial to the meetings.

I will herewith submit to you a list of the prize winners exhibiting at the above meeting.

Prize winners at the Waco Farmers' Institute:

1st on yellow corn, R. F. Getty.
 2d on yellow corn, C. F. Uffelman.
 3d on yellow corn, Joe Newcomer.
 1st on white corn, John Snyder.
 2d on white corn, J. W. Pickrel.
 1st on wheat, Samuel Strickler.
 2d on wheat, Theodore Worthington.
 1st on oats, John Abbott.
 2d on oats, Elmer Mulig.
 1st on clover seed, S. Strickler.
 2d on clover seed, J. E. Brubaker.
 1st on timothy seed, John Abbott.
 2d on timothy seed, S. A. May.
 1st on potatoes, Joe Trollope.
 2d on potatoes, J. W. Pickrel.
 1st on butter, Laura Trollope.
 2d on butter, Carrie Reeves.
 1st on white bread, Dora Campbell.
 2d on white bread, Ruth Applegate.
 1st on cake, Dora Campbell.
 1st on best piece of fancy work, Mrs. J. A. Gilbert.

2d on best piece of fancy work, Mrs. X. Brandhoefer.

1st on best sample of patch work, Irene Stafrin.

Boys' Corn Judging

1st, Cecil Thorpe.

2d, Harry Williams.

3d, Robert Getty.

Poultry

1st on Best P. Rocks, R. Stephens.

2d on Best P. Rocks, S. Strickler.

1st on W. P. Rocks, John Brubaker.

1st on Buff P. Rocks, Joe Newcomer.

1st on White Wy't, Elmer Mulig.

2d on White Wy't, M. E. Getty.

1st on Light Bra., L. Lancaster.

2d on Light Bra., Carrie Reeves.

1st on Buff Cochins, Lucy Mastin.

1st on Rosecomb White Leghorn, Lucy Mastin.

R. F. GETTY, *Secretary*.

HARVEST PICNIC

On July 23, 1892, a called meeting for an old settlers' harvest picnic met and was called to order by Chairman Shepherd. S. A. Thomas was elected secretary of the meeting. It was moved by J. D. P. Small that members from each township appointed act as police to watch the grove on the premises during the day.

Speakers for the occasion are Dr. S. V. Moore, Bradshaw; J. D. P. Small, Leroy Township; M. Sovereign, York; Geo. Bowers, Lockridge Township; and A. C. Eberhart.

On motion it was decided to hold the picnic August 25th.

On motion a committee on music was appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen: J. M. Gunnett, J. F. Harrison and M. Sovereign. The chairman appointed the following committee to prepare and seat the grounds: J. F. Harrison, J. D. P. Small, J. W. Boston, R. Shipman, Wm. Collingham.

Finance committee: John Reed, J. D. P. Small and A. C. Eberhart.

The following are the officers: G. W. Shepherd, president; J. W. Boston, vice president; J. P. Miller, marshal of the day. On motion all the committees are requested to meet at the courthouse at 2:00 o'clock Saturday, August 6, 1892.

Parties desiring refreshment stands on the grounds will please confer with committee on grounds.

No disorderly conduct, drunkenness or gambling will be allowed on the grounds.

On motion the proceedings of the meeting were ordered published in all the county papers.

The committees from each township are as follows:

Stewart: Swan Lindstom, Ben Willis.

Thayer: John Oberg, R. V. Rice.

Morton: J. F. Tilden, Benjamin Myers.

Arberville: E. C. Smith, G. Mason.

Bradshaw: J. P. Mosgrove, Alf Lichtenberger.

Lockridge: A. C. Eberhart, John Bremer.

New York: Robert James, Chas. Keckley.

Waco: Wm. Strickler, H. S. Burtch.

Beaver: L. Hohensee, E. H. Burhoop.

Leroy: V. C. Thuleran, Nate Johnson.

Baker: John Reed, Seymour Spellman.

Brown: J. E. Tracey, S. P. Brewer.

Henderson: Jud Armour, Bob Henderson.

Hayes: J. S. Caywood, O. P. Hager.

McFadden: J. F. Albin, Thomas W. Smith.

West Blue: John Kelso, Wm. Morgan.

York: John Ittner, Wm. Kemser, Judge Moore, Frank Bell.

Everybody cordially invited.

S. A. THOMAS, *Secretary*.

G. W. SHEPHERD, *President*.

YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Agricultural Society of York County was organized at the office of F. M. Bidwell, in the month of June, 1872. N. W. Groves was elected president, F. W. Liedke, secretary, and L. D. Stillson, general superintendent. The first fair was held in October, 1873, upon the present grounds of the society. The half mile track had been surveyed and laid out during the summer of 1872. There was a fair representation of trotting stock. The exhibits of cattle, sheep and farm produce were limited, for it will be remembered the county was then enjoying the days of its tutelage. However, there was a good representation of all classes of entries, and an interest manifested by the farmers of York County that was highly encouraging to the founders of the society. The premium list for this year aggregated \$500. Since its organization, the society has enjoyed a steady progress, and is now one of the more important in the state. The grounds are furnished with a good number of roomy stables. The present officers are: W. E. McCloud, president; J. C. Kilner, secretary; J. P. Miller, treasurer; G. W. Butterfield, general superintendent.

The county fair has been carried out at periods throughout the history of the county. Since the present fair association revived the fair some six or seven years ago, the affairs have been in the hands of the following men. The officers elected in 1917 to carry on the fourth annual fair in 1918 were:

Board of Directors

Chas. T. Wiswell.....	Gresham, Nebraska
Arlo Diehl	Benedict, Nebraska
Geo. S. Tilden.....	Benedict, Nebraska
Harry Harrington	Bradshaw, Nebraska
Jas. B. Carlisle.....	Bradshaw, Nebraska
A. A. Barr.....	York, Nebraska
E. J. Hays.....	York, Nebraska
R. F. Getty.....	Waco, Nebraska
Frank Widdle	Waco, Nebraska
W. C. Foster.....	York, Nebraska
J. W. Tracy.....	Henderson, Nebraska
A. J. Regier.....	Henderson, Nebraska
Frank H. Finney.....	Fairmont, Nebraska
Leslie F. White.....	York, Nebraska
Henry Gocke	Waco, Nebraska
C. N. Beaver.....	York, Nebraska
A. J. Martin.....	York, Nebraska
A. W. Thompson.....	York, Nebraska
W. E. Gould.....	York, Nebraska
Con. McCarthy	York, Nebraska
Jas. A. Barr.....	York, Nebraska

Executive Committee

Con. McCarthy, C. N. Beaver, Jas. A. Barr, Jas. B. Carlisle, C. A. McCloud.

The present officers for next year are:

Con. McCarthy, president; R. F. Getty, vice president; Geo. W. Shreck, secretary; these were all re-elections. Seven new members were elected to fill expired terms on the board of directors as follows: E. J. Hays, York; David Price, Thayer; Elmer Jenkins, Benedict; R. F. Getty, Waco; James Carlisle, Bradshaw; James A. Barr, York; and Mr. Whittemore, York.

THE 1920 FAIR

For some years within the past decade or two the county fair somewhat dwindled in its importance, as the state fair increased in magnitude and drawing power. But within the past few years this time revered institution has been recovering its old-time vitality. Not only as indicative of this fact, but to make record of the modern agricultural activities and achievements of York County to such length as we can possibly spare the space, a very elaborated press account of the 1920 fair will be now given:

Next year's fair, when that occasion arrives, will have to be a very great occasion indeed if it lives up to the record set on the closing day of the 1920 event. Everybody expected a crowd on school day and everybody knew that the community chorus would have a good audience at the pavilion in the evening, but nobody yet found pleads guilty to expectations quite up to reality. It is estimated by those who have had some experience in the estimating line that there were approximately two thousand automobiles driven in from outside points and parked along the streets of York that day, and that ten thousand visitors thronged the streets and the various exhibits of the fair. When night fell they did not go home; rather the number was augmented by new arrivals, and midnight was approaching before the guests had all turned their faces homeward.

The chief events of the day were the school parade in the morning, the children's concert in the afternoon, and the evening recital by the chorus, composed of singers from all parts of the county. Three thousand children from the schools of the county were in line for the great pageant, all of them, with the exception of the few who rode in two floats, being on foot. As is usual the teachers and pupils had spared no pains to make the costumes and banners significant and attractive, and hundreds of lads and lassies in fancy dress, impersonating the people of history and tradition as well as those of modern life, kept time to the music as they passed along the street, sometimes enlivening the way with yells and songs. Teachers marched with their scholars, giving aid and encouragement. Uncle Sam, Columbia, the Goddess of Liberty, Puritans, both men and women, farmers and farmerettes, housewives, impersonations of well known advertisements were in the procession with scores of little folks wearing their school colors in caps and sashes. The district and school banners were perhaps more handsome than ever before. The parade was over all too soon for the spectators who felt that the line moved too swiftly to allow time and opportunity for full appreciation of the individual features of the pageant. Among the people who viewed the parade was State Superintendent Matzen, who had heard that this annual event by the schools of York County was unique and unequaled anywhere in Nebraska, and now believes what he has heard.

At half past two the children from the York and the village schools united in a splendid musical at the Chautauqua pavilion. This program had been prepared by means of practice hours in the individual schools, and the chorus as a whole had never sung together until the hour for the recital. A delightful audience testified to the merit of the performance. Miss Conaway, director of music in the York schools, conducted the program. Five hundred children took part.

Even the most widely heralded attraction in the palmiest days of the Chautauqua never drew a larger audience than that which assembled under the roof of the pavilion Friday night and spilled over until there was little standing room between the building and the fence. Conductor Parks and the singers from the various districts of the county received a genuine compliment in the eager interest manifested by the people in their coming together, and the event proved to be fully up to the expectation of the audience, which gave repeated evidences of appreciation and pleasure. The concert was the last item on the week's program, and its successful conclusion was a happy ending to the fair and festival. Aside from its excellence musically the entertainment was a testimony to the interest the people take in an event of this kind, and those who worked for so many months to

make it possible must have felt gratified. Certainly they deserve both commendation and congratulation.

A Part of the Story. An endeavor to give a complete and satisfactory report of the fair was doomed to failure in the beginning. The undertaking was too big. Many things deserving of mention have been omitted from these sketches, and at best they can only tell a part of the story.

The Boys' Stock Show. York County girls as well as boys had a perfect right to make entries in the new department of the fair this year, but since only boys took advantage of the privilege, naturally they carried off all the premiums, praise and credit. Another year it may be different. The showings in the department, though few because of limited time allowed for creating an interest in the movement, were of excellent quality and excited so much interest among lads who visited the exhibit that a goodly number of them expressed a readiness to join a calf and pig club, if one can be organized, and work to make next year's show one of note.

Among the most enthusiastic exhibitors was Raymond Stuhr, who belongs to a Capper Pig Club and is assistant secretary of the Duroc Jersey Breed Club for 1920. Raymond has put both time and money into his pen of Durocs and took first and second prizes on his pets.

Ralph Fenster, who won second and third prizes on his Poland Chinas, is another young man who has been in the hog business for some time. A few weeks ago he had an article on his particular breed in the Poland China Book, issued by a leading stock journal.

There are four in the firm of Tisserat Brothers. The youngest is only five years old, but he is just as much interested in the business as any of his older brothers and pretty well pleased with the three first prizes and one second prize won by the Poland Chinas belonging to the firm. Those ribbons will be appreciated by all the lads.

Leslie Kuhn entered four head of Poland Chinas and carried off two second prizes and one third prize. He also exhibited three Short Horn calves and took first, second and third prizes.

Harold Foster won first prize on his Short Horn calf.

The Dorsey boys had some fine Duroc Jerseys in the hog class and took two firsts, two seconds and two thirds, about all there was to get.

People not initiated in the real workings of pure bred stock clubs among boys can learn some surprising things about the results attainable. Over in Seward County they have a very prosperous pig club, sponsored by the county agent. One of the members who has been working for several years entered his litter of pigs at the state fair and later sold them for \$4,000. The deal would look big to many adults who are trying their hand at stock raising. P. J. Tisserat, who was in charge of the exhibit last week, was pleased to see the interest taken in the project by youthful citizens of the county and feels sure that with a little encouragement and the right sort of practical backing York County could have a large and thriving calf and pig club, which would be of benefit not only to the members but also to the stock industry of the county.

Hogs of the First Families. York hog breeders had some of their best animals on display. Poland Chinas, Duroc Jerseys and Spotted Polands were the families represented. J. Arnold took first premium on aged Poland Chinas, and B. S. Kuhn

first on the junior yearling, while Aubery Barr got first and champion on aged sow. Alvan Olson got three firsts, one second and one champion on Poland Chinas from Yorkview, which is a model stock farm a few miles north of town. W. L. Porter took a first, a second and two thirds, and R. Fenster and Sons a first and second. So much for the Poland Chinas.

Snyder and Sons, who breed Duroc Jerseys, got three firsts, two seconds and two thirds. Harry Dorsey, showing the same breed, was awarded four firsts, two champions and one second, and John McClatchey got three firsts, a second and a third on his Spotted Polands.

Blooded Horses. Many people in the community are perhaps not aware that the Highridge stock farm of Jas Barr and Sons produces annually as many horses if not more than any other similar farm in the state. The Barrs have devoted themselves principally to Percherons, but in the last year have added a few good Belgians to the herd. At present there are sixty head of horses on the farm, and some of the best were at the fair. The Barrs took first and third prizes on suckling colts, a pair of handsome little blacks winning the ribbons. A big bay Belgian took first and champion. Two Percheron mares won first and third, and first went to the best span of mares hitched. A Percheron mare won first and champion and firsts were carried off by a yearling Belgian and a yearling Percheron. A black Percheron stallion took first and a big gray took second. The Percheron who took first weighs 2,000 pounds, but in spite of his size has the grace lacking in many a smaller animal. With his arched neck and silky mane and coat he is good to look at.

A handsome white mare with her black mule colt by her side took first prize and champion for her owner, Arthur Otto. The colt was also awarded first prize.

John Snyder and Sons also devote much time to horses and had a fine showing in the horse barn. A pretty suckling took second prize and two grade year olds were given first ribbons. A Percheron mare took second and a handsome team also won second.

Small Exhibit of Sheep. There were only two exhibitors to enter sheep this year, the number of animals shown being smaller than in previous seasons. Glen Foster had two head and took first and champion in ewes. Clinton Kirkpatrick entered twelve head, winning first, second and third prizes. When Judge Propp went through the pens he gave an impromptu lecture on judging sheep to a number of boys who were exhibiting in the calf and pig club, and awakened considerable interest among the lads and bystanders.

With the High-Bred Cows. It's a shame to have no better place to accommodate 'em, those high bred horses, cows and hogs, and the aristocratic sheep. To invite guests of their pedigree to come to town and then house them in a dark ramshackle old barn is not the right kind of hospitality, but perhaps before another year rolls round we shall be able to do better by them.

If this paper gave the impression in last week's issue that Short Horns were the only breed on exhibition in the cattle sheds the impression was as wrong as it was unintentional. There were also Aberdeen Angus, the coal black animals whose name reveals their Scotch ancestry; there were Jerseys, the real cream-giving kind, and Holsteins and Herefords and Polled Short Horns. In the Short Horn department the following breeders took ribbons:

Alvin Westwood, first and second on senior bull calf; B. S. Kuhn third on

year-old cow; E. J. Foster, first and grand champion on two-year-old bull; third on senior bull calf, first and champion on three-year-old cow and third on three-year-old cow, second on senior heifer calf, first on junior heifer calf, third on get of sire, first on produce of cow, second on calf herd; Fred Thomas and Son first on junior yearling bull; William Tindall & Son, first and third on junior yearling heifer; E. J. Hays, second on two-year-old bull, first on senior yearling heifer; McCarthy Bros., first and champion on junior bull calf, second on three-year-old cow, first on two-year-old cow, second on two-year-old cow, second on senior yearling heifer, second on junior yearling heifer, third on senior heifer calf, first and grand champion on senior heifer calf, first on get of sire, second on get of sire, second on produce of cow, third on produce of cow, first on calf herd; C. A. Barr, second on junior heifer calf.

Exhibitors of Polled Short Horns were awarded prizes as follows: Fred Thomas and Sons, first on junior yearling bull, first and champion on senior bull calf, second on senior bull calf, first on three-year-old cow, second on junior yearling heifer and third on junior yearling heifer, first and second on junior heifer calf, first on get of sire and first on calf herd; Lester White, first and champion on two-year-old bull, first on junior bull calf, first and champion on two-year-old cow, first and champion on senior heifer and first on junior heifer.

The Aberdeen Angus exhibited by Jay White carried off a string of prizes. In this connection it is worth noting that Mr. White took third and fourth on his junior bull calf at the state fair. At the county fair he was awarded first and grand champion on a junior yearling bull, first and second on junior bull calf, first on three-year-old cow, first on junior yearling heifer, first on senior heifer calf, first on junior heifer calf, second on junior heifer calf, first on get of sire, first on produce of cow, first on calf herd.

W. F. Schultz, who exhibited Herefords, took first and champion on senior yearling bull, first on junior yearling heifer, first on senior heifer calf and first and champion on junior heifer calf.

Red Polled Short Horns exhibited by John Brabham were awarded a first and champion for a two-year-old bull, first and champion on senior bull calf, second on senior bull calf, first on both senior and junior heifer calves, first on a yearling, first on get of sire and first on calf herd.

C. E. Bond brought a Holstein cow which took first prize.

A. C. Krah won first ribbons on his Jersey bull and heifer.

The Poultry Show. The poultry show went over the top in both the number of exhibits and the variety and quality. There was not room enough to accommodate all the birds which owners were desirous of entering, and it was necessary to turn would-be exhibitors away after the tent was filled. The poultry shown was without exception in fine condition and people who appreciated high-bred stock enjoyed the display.

Thirteen breeds of poultry were shown besides turkeys, ducks and geese. The old, reliable Barred Plymouth Rocks were exhibited by James Pickrel, S. S. Piper, C. D. Tharp and O. O. Jones. Handsome White Rocks were shown by James Pickrel and Frank D. Wing. August E. Krah entered White Langshans and B. S. Kuhn displayed the Blacks of the same breed. J. M. Meadville was the only Buff Plymouth Rock specialist in the list, but fine Buff Orpingtons were sponsored by C. J. Blender, Mrs. R. Fenster, Mrs. Carl Barth and C. Pickrel. The nifty Par-

tridge Wyandottes of Mrs. S. L. Cleland were the only ones of their family at the show.

W. C. Noll and H. C. Feemster exhibited Rhode Island Reds, dividing the prizes between them. White Wyandottes are a favorite among the fanciers in the county and W. E. Gould, Mrs. Fred Stilson, Mildred Tharp, Mrs. Lucy Zentz, and O. H. Feldman had fine specimens in the tent. The ever attractive White Leghorns were shown by Edwin Getty, Reverend Bollman, Mrs. J. A. Campbell, Mrs. Fred Stilson and Claude Hudson. Mrs. Paul Diehl brought White Orpingtons and W. McTaggart Black Orpingtons. Mrs. R. Fenster and W. T. Wherry showed Mottled Anconas, H. C. Feemster had a large exhibit of Black Cochin Bantams and Herb Reisinger exhibited his beautiful Silver Wyandottes.

White Holland turkeys from the pens of Mrs. Paul Diehl attracted much attention. The rearing of turkeys is almost a lost art in this vicinity, but the health and beauty of Mrs. Diehl's snowy pets proved that it can be done. E. O. Stone had Toulouse geese, Tom Green, Pekin ducks, and Mrs. A. L. Howard, B. S. Kuhn and Mrs. Paul Diehl, White Muscovy ducks.

Poultry fanciers are looking forward to the winter show, when they plan to fill Agricultural Hall so full of the very finest birds in the country that no exhibition of the kind ever held here before will be able to compare with it. In case their plans work out the county fair exhibit will only be a forerunner of better things.

POULTRY SHOW A SUCCESS

Within the past decade or so the "humble hen" yet the fruitful hen has been gaining rapidly in prominence upon the farm. The revenue derived from the poultry on all of the farms in a single county is immense, and thus one of the modern agricultural show activities is the poultry show.

On the eve of the close of the exhibition held by the Central Nebraska Poultry Association, last Thursday, the members of the organization and interested friends met at the Miller Cafeteria for dinner and a general discussion of matters relating to the poultry business. Congratulations on the success of the exhibition were mutual between exhibitors and the officers who were so largely responsible for the success of the show. The principal speakers of the evening were E. C. Bishop of Bradshaw, who has had wide experience in interesting boys and girls in agricultural matters through the medium of clubs and who spoke on poultry club work for the young people. Claude Hudson, secretary of the association, talked of various phases of the poultry industry. Impromptu speeches were made by other guests. Officers for another year were elected and the time of the exhibition next year set for the second week in December. The new officers are W. B. McTaggart, president; H. C. Feemster, vice president, and Claude Hudson, secretary and treasurer. Everett Gould, Herb Reisinger, Julius Crane and Joseph Pashang were named as directors.

Friday was the last day of the exhibition and Saturday the handsome birds, many of them wearing prize ribbons, were shipped to their homes. The association hopes in time to purchase uniform cages, such as were used this year, as a part of the equipment for the annual show. Prospects now are for an even bigger and better exhibit in 1921.

STATISTICS ON YORK COUNTY PRODUCTION

Now we will come to the consideration of cold, hard facts, and let figures speak for the agricultural achievements of our county. First, taking a rather inviting inspection of the totals, as published in the York Democrat in 1915, before we take the same facts in coldly, solidly arranged tables.

York is not the largest Nebraska county in point of area, nor is it the largest in point of population. Cherry County could be cut up into twelve counties as large as York, and Custer County would make four counties the size of York County. But it is only in area and population that York will consent to play second fiddle to any of them. Some counties excel York County in the production of some particular crop, but when it comes to the production of the five or six staple agricultural crops produced in Nebraska, York claims to stand right up at the top in bushels or tons per acre, value per capita, or total amounts.

The statistics compiled by the State Board of Agriculture for 1914 contain some information well worth while. The figures show York County to be one of the very best counties in the state—in fact, excelled by only a very few, and those counties that are larger in area and population.

The value of land and permanent improvements in York County, according to the 1914 statistics, was \$32,378,000. Only Lancaster and Platte exceeded this amount. This, of course, refers to farm lands only.

The value of farm buildings in York in 1914 was \$4,528,000. Only Butler County exceeded this total.

In 1914 York County produced 3,472,000 bushels of corn. This production was excelled only by Lancaster, Custer, Boone and Antelope. York had the smallest acreage of the five named, and the largest average yield per acre.

York produced 104,200 bushels of winter wheat in 1914. This production was excelled only by Lancaster, Kearney, Gage, Fillmore, Clay and Hamilton. York County had the smallest acreage of the lot, and the production per acre was excelled only by Hamilton and Clay.

York's production of alfalfa in 1914 was 19,200 tons. This amount was excelled by eleven counties, every one of which had a vastly larger acreage, but not one of which produced as much per acre.

In 1914 York County had 1,280 hand separators. Only Platte, Otoe, Lancaster and Gage excelled this, and all of them have larger population. This is an index of York County's growth as a dairying county.

York County showed the assessor 742 automobiles in 1914. Only Saunders, Otoe, Lancaster, Douglas and Dodge acknowledged more.

In 1914 the value of dairy cows, other cattle and swine in York County was \$504,448. This total was excelled by eleven counties.

A conservative estimate of York County's corn yield this year is 7,000,000 bushels. Were all this corn to be shipped by rail at once it would stall every railroad in Nebraska, for it would require 10,000 cars each loaded with 700 bushels of corn to transport the crop. This would be 125 freight trains of 80 cars each, or one freight train more than 100 miles long. If York shipped her 1915 crop of alfalfa to market by freight it would require nearly 1,800 cars carrying ten tons each. A freight train transporting York County's 1915 crop of corn, wheat and alfalfa would run through Omaha by the way of Lincoln, have its engine whistling

ten or twelve miles to the east of the Missouri River before the caboose left the corporate limits of the City of York.

Nebraska is a wonderful state, and is made up of many splendid counties. And little old York is more than willing to be measured alongside any other Nebraska county, or any similar expanse of territory in the United States, when it comes to the production of all the good things that tend to make life better and therefore happier.

YORK COUNTY IN 1915

Crop	Acreage	Average	Yield	Value
Corn	108,945	40.8 bu	4,444,956	\$2,222,478
Wheat	100,171	21.4 bu	2,164,659	1,731,727
Rye	108	21.3 bu	2,300	1,725
Barley	302	35.0 bu	10,570	4,228
Oats	23,580	35.6 bu	839,448	235,045
Potatoes	510	97.5 bu	49,725	19,890
Alfalfa	22,908	3.9 ts	89,341	536,046
Hay	9,961	1.5 ts	14,941	85,649
Timothy	10,206	.....	.....	102,060
Clover	1,905	.....	.....	22,860
Blue Grass.....	24,382	.....	.....	243,720
Other Grasses.....	11,209	.....	.....	112,090

Grand total Agricultural products.....\$5,317,518

Live Stock	No.	Value
Horses	12,561	\$1,268,661
Mules	2,007	218,763
Milch Cows.....	6,535	392,100
Other Cattle.....	16,812	672,480
Swine	31,292	469,380
Sheep	1,164	6,984

Grand total for 1915.....\$8,346,886

Estimated per capita production for the entire county, \$418. This is greatly in excess of the average per capita production of the entire state, and it must be borne in mind that Nebraska's production of agricultural and live stock wealth per capita is greater than that of any other state.

YORK COUNTY—1916

Products	Head	Products	Bushels
Cattle	8,533	Apples	735
Hogs	33,502	Barley	26
Horses and mules.....	1,127	Corn	698,273
Sheep	4,629	Oats	55,443

Pop corn.....	5	Flour	7,007,491
Potatoes	2,895	Furs	150
Wheat	1,230,792	Hides and pelts.....	77,745
Fresh fruit.....	340	Honey	16
Products	Tons	Lard	324
Alfalfa	589	Live poultry	1,302,242
Hay	698	Melons	25,560
Ice	894	Mill feed	1,912,047
Stone	120	Millet seed	1,000
Products	Number	Nursery stock	694,738
Brick	972,000	Tallow	28,946
Products	Gallons	Timothy seed	7,535
Cream	40,134	Vegetables	23,460
Ice cream.....	1,207	Wool	13,780
Products	Pounds	Products	Baskets
Alfalfa seed	14,642	Peaches	263
Butter	32,190	Products	Dozens
Clover seed.....	910	Brooms	444
Dressed meat	867	Eggs	559,715
Dressed poultry	50		

YORK COUNTY—1917

Products	Head	Products	Pounds
Cattle	10,713	Alfalfa seed	1,100
Hogs	41,375	Butter	42,117
Horses and mules.....	641	Clover seed.....	950
Sheep	10,530	Dressed meat.....	612
Products	Bushels	Dressed poultry.....	550
Barley	14,614	Flour	2,063,971
Corn	2,308,317	Furs	200
Oats	257,008	Hides and pelts.....	110,179
Potatoes	28	Honey	100
Wheat	424,512	Lard	268
Products	Tons	Live poultry	1,249,168
Alfalfa	49	Mill feed	250,000
Cement blocks	50	Nursery stock.....	532,000
Hay	667	Tallow	4,256
Ice	21	Timothy seed.....	2,795
Sand and gravel.....	150	Vegetables	950
Products	Number	Wool	13,190
Brick	7,348,100	Products	Dozens
Products	Gallons	Eggs	1,195,965
Cream	124,819		
Ice cream	4,150		

In 1918 the number of farm mortgages filed in York County was 254, the amount being \$1,460,529, the number released was 313 and the amount \$1,230,537.

There were 12,162 horses and mules valued at \$90 each, which amounted to \$1,094,580, and 1,713 valued at \$100 each, amounting to \$171,300. The number of milch cows was 6,666, valued at \$599,940; other cattle 20,580, valued at \$1,440,600. There were 34,482 hogs and sheep valued at \$30 each, amounting to \$1,034,460, and 5,183 valued at \$12.00 per head, amounting to \$62,196. The number of sheep and goats fed in the year 2,659, valued at \$28,570; also 13,688 dozen poultry.

There were 102,830 acres of corn, producing 719,810 bushels; 82,120 acres of winter wheat, producing 739,080 bushels; 4,937 acres of spring wheat, producing 34,559 bushels; 32,282 acres of oats, making 419,666 bushels; 593 acres of rye, making 6,523 bushels; 5,778 acres of rye, making 86,670 bushels; 16,256 acres of alfalfa, making 26,009.6 tons, valued at \$650,240; 6,505 acres of wild hay, making 4,553.5 tons, valued at \$86,516; 929 acres of potatoes, making 39,018 bushels, valued at \$31,214.

There were 6,997 acres of timothy, 580 acres of clover, 33,958 acres of blue grass, 43,320 acres of sugar beets, 15 acres of broom corn, 40 acres of kaffir corn. The number of bushels of corn on hand in April, 1918, was 745,600 bushels, 24,927 bushels of wheat and 575,225 bushels of other grains; 84 acres of spelts, 45 acres of millet and Hungarian and 221 acres of sorghum. There were 1,491 automobiles, 892 gas engines, 61 gasoline tractors, 40 silos, 1,489 cream separators, and 23 butter-making machines.

MODERN FARM LIFE

Several very changed phases of modern farm life have caused more or less anxiety in recent years. One is that the census of 1920 shows a decrease in population in agricultural districts and even in many towns entirely dependent upon agricultural territory. Yet this is not altogether alarming, and it might be well to consider the following analysis of the situation as viewed by one of the newspapers of Lancaster County, facts which will equally apply to York County.

THE CALL TO QUALITY

The detailed census returns for Lancaster County show Nebraska what to expect in the way of general population development in the years next ahead. The precincts of the county which are without villages show a loss in population. The villages show losses or very small gains. The City of Lincoln with its suburbs shows a fair gain.

The farms contain fewer people than in 1910. The villages which are purely farm trading centers barely hold their own. The larger center of population makes a gain, though by no means such gains as the industrial cities show. Nebraska, this suggests, is to remain static in rural population. Such gains in population as it makes are to be in the larger towns.

The conditions accounting for this state of affairs give no sign of change, as yet. More machinery and fewer men man the farms. The eighty-acre farm is giving way to the larger unit demanded by fast plowing and harvesting machinery. The new farms of the West, level and light of soil, are manageable in still larger units. As labor conditions change there will be more intensive farming in the irrigated dis-

tricts. The sugar beet country will continue to increase in population. As to the rest, there may even be further decreases while present economic tendencies continue.

In these circumstances, Nebraska must find its pleasure in growth in quality. This is a more satisfying process, once we are embarked upon it, than that mere growth in numbers on which Americans are so prone to base their pride. Nebraska has enough people to be comfortable and content together. What we need is better living for those already here. Good headway has been made in some of these respects, notably with roads. A start has been made toward better schools. Unfortunately as much cannot be said for the church situation. Farmer organizations have begun to point the way to a richer social life. There is a prosperity by means of which Nebraska can make itself, if it will, a state of the healthiest, highest minded, happiest, wisest, most efficient people the world ever saw around a common capital. To go in that direction is work enough. There is no time nor need to worry over numbers.

Another fact is that the encroaches of the automobile upon the time-worn custom of Saturday shopping has removed one of the landmarks of farm life.

SATURDAY NO LONGER BIG DAY

Saturday is no longer the "big day" with the country merchants. The advent of the automobile has made all days look alike to both farmer and merchant. Today the farmer cranks up his car, scoots to town, does his trading and gets back home quicker than he could formerly hitch Dobbin and Bill to the buggy. Mother packs her eggs in a box, hops into the car with Father, and away they go, twenty-five miles an hour, and are in town, have their trading done, back home and at the evening chores, quicker than it used to take them to hitch up and drive to town.

But if the automobile has made it easier for the farmer and easier for the town merchant, it has destroyed one of the old charms of rural and small town life. Saturday used to be the big visiting day, as well as the big marketing day. The farmers would come to town with their wives, and while the farmers were talking crops and live stock, prices and politics, the good wives were foregathering in the stores and exchanging recipes and going into ecstasies over babies and inquiring about absent relatives and friends. It was a day of great sociability; a day on which new friendships were made and old friendships made stronger. It was a weekly event in the humdrum of existence, an oasis of pleasure in what was too often a social desert.

But the automobile has brought hurry as well as convenience, and instead of visiting around in the stores the farmer's wives hurry through their shopping and are off for a pleasure ride in the new car. The average farmer can get from his farm to town as quickly as the average city man can get to his place of business on the street car. The automobile has destroyed the small town idea by making every farm a suburban residence. It is a great institution, but one often wonders if its convenience makes up for what it has destroyed; whether its hurry makes up for the old-time neighborliness and sociability that we used to have in the old years when Saturday was chuck full of sociability and the village and small city stores were crowded with cheery-faced farmers' wives and the streets were filled with stalwart men discussing every possible phase of political and social life.

FARM ORGANIZATIONS

The past few years have seen another impetus given to the organization of the farmer. The farmers' unions, which have been very successful, have been joined by the Non-partisan League. These two organizations pursue a different theory, the former, of co-operative incorporation of elevators, stores and other enterprises conducted upon the co-operative plan or the regular corporation plan. The latter deems it wiser to form a strong political organization, seek the nomination and election of candidates pledged to carry out its ideas, which tend more to state ownership and operation of elevators, packing houses, terminal elevators, banks, and enterprises in which the farmer would be interested. Another strong organization in the state is the farm bureaus, organized in many counties of the state. York County has not yet formed a local farm bureau, and secured the services of a county agent. The following excerpts from the York Republican in November and December, 1920, indicate the frame of mind in York County upon this phase of work, as this book is being completed:

The farm bureau has leaped into universal favor in Nebraska. The drive which is being made by counties is phenomenal in its success. Counties which declined or looked upon it with cold favor a few months ago are accepting the farm bureau with great alacrity now. By the time the drive is finished it looks as if every purely agricultural county will be organized into a farm bureau. Present conditions have brought home to the farmer that organization is essential. The antipathy to the "kid glove" farmer has waned to almost nothing. The agricultural expert, turned out by the agricultural schools, has proven his value and won his way over the prejudices of the farmer whose education has come out of the soil itself. The farmer looked on the agent as an unwelcome and unwanted intruder. The county agent looked on the farmer as a field of conversion and education. When they got to work they found the actual experience of one and the academic knowledge of the other made a combination that solved many a farm problem and made farming more a science and less an experiment. The county agent now has his place to fill and it becomes a question not of shall he be employed but where can we get one? The supply must increase many fold to keep up with the demand. And so the agriculture school is justifying its existence and by its demonstrated worth making its own success.

Every time the editor of this newspaper picks up an exchange printed in a county where a farm bureau is maintained he has the feeling that the farmers of York County are missing a great means of betterment of farm and crop conditions. The attitude which some farmers have, that the farm bureau is a meddler, trying to tell farmers how to do things they themselves know better how to do, is absurd. The farm bureau is a clearing house through which the ideas of one progressive farmer are passed on to another; things of benefit to all are made common property and a spirit of co-operation is encouraged so that every farm activity is bettered. The farm bureau will soon again be presented to the farmers of York County for acceptance or rejection. We are expressing a hope that the majority speaks out strong for the modern rural community enterprise.

The Allied Union Co-operative Association of York has become one of the leading and pace-setting co-operative organizations of the state, and has built up a

wonderfully successful business, portraying the value of farmers' organization in trading together.

YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The following story of the organization of a new enterprise, an all-county farmers' and small towns' proposition not just a town commercial club or chamber of commerce—which will become a factor in the future is told by Editor Alden in the following excerpts from the Republican, in October and November, 1920:

These reports cover a series of meetings held to get the project launched and working smoothly, and 1921 finds this new organization with several branches ready to become a county-wide force and set a fine precedent to other counties.

What many people consider a movement of far-reaching importance was launched at Waco in October, 1920, when, acting upon suggestions from the Waco Community Club, a meeting was held for the purpose of considering the formation of a county community organization. The rain of the night before made the roads muddy in some places and rough in others so that the attendance was reduced, but there was a very enthusiastic meeting and the preliminaries of the organization were made.

The plan which is projected calls for a county-wide organization with a very nominal membership fee of \$1. The governing body is an assembly composed of three members from each local community club. The assembly will have monthly meetings at a place or places to be later chosen.

The hope of the men who have taken great interest in the organization is that a community club may be organized in each township in the county, and that these local clubs will be the basis of representation in the county organization. In order that there may be no control each community club has equal representation with each other club, so that the commercial organization in York with its 400 members will have just the same number of representatives on the governing board as the smallest country or township organization. The assembly will choose its own officers consisting of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant at arms.

The work of the organization will be done largely through its bureaus and here the largeness of the plan shows. The preliminary plan calls for bureaus for publicity, finance, executive, entertainment, highways, membership, employment, agriculture and live stock, educational, fellowship, etc. The purpose is to form an organization which shall be able by the character of its membership and its application to the common interests to take up each and every question which may come for solution in the common life of the county. Thus the labor bureau would supply farm hands, laborers, household help, etc. The agriculture and live stock bureau would attend to all questions coming up for solution in this important department and would give a great impetus to better crop methods, better marketing and better stock on the farms of York County. The important bureau of highways could do a great work for better roads in York County. The educational bureau could render a fine service in the consolidation of schools which is coming and bettering school conditions in the county.

The possibilities for good in such an organization as above outlined are immeas-

urable. It is a fine and intelligent attempt to promote a co-operative spirit in York County and weld the varied interests of its people into one great whole, while attempting to render a service to each and all.

The York County Community Association is attracting considerable attention and much favorable mention over the state. It is apparently the first comprehensive attempt to extend the community club idea over a county. Heretofore a town or neighborhood has been considered the scope of activities for a community club. In York County the plan of having the county used as the unit of organization is proposed and we note the Lincoln Trade Review commenting on the plan in this wise:

"A new thing in business and agricultural organization work is the selecting of the county as the unit for organization.

"The York Community Association, recently launched, is such an organization. This organization aims to have a community organization in every township within the county; this township organization in turn being entitled to representation in the county community association.

"In counties where the agricultural element is so predominant, the community club, as a slight variation from what is generally accepted as a chamber of commerce, has done untold good in bringing together farmers and the town business men. The attitude that the farm bureau in its organization work in this state is taking, is to be commended. It is at least in no way antagonistic to the many community clubs that are organized, and in fact there is a noticeable tendency towards the working together of the county agent or the farm bureau representative with the community or commercial club.

"One of the big results that can come through this county plan of organization will be the enlisting of hundreds of men in all walks of life into organization work of this kind. A county that can boast of a community club in every township will have an organization that will bring out representation from every nook and corner of the county, representing ideas from every class.

"The bankers of this state have realized the necessity for organization work in a general way along this line, and the bankers have selected the county in many instances as a unit for building up a better and closer organization among the bankers."

President Shields has announced his selections for the heads of bureaus which are provided for by the proposed form of government of the community association. They are: Farm, David Price, Thayer; Clubs, Frank Widle, Beaver; Publicity, J. G. Alden, York; Advisory, S. W. Gillan, York; Fellowship, Wade Read, York; Highways, M. B. Stream, Waco; Invitation, L. L. Slagel, McCool; Program, L. D. Beltzner, Bradshaw; Finance, A. R. McFadden, McCool; Entertainment, Gene Bemis, York; Organizer, George Myers, Bradshaw; Executive, Dr. F. S. Morris, McCool; Employment, W. J. O'Donnell, York; Membership, C. F. Backemeyer, Waco; Agriculture and Live Stock, R. F. Getty, Waco; Education, Prof. E. C. Bishop, Bradshaw.

The list contains a superabundance of newspaper men, who by the way seem always ready to do their full part and share, not only in publicity but hewing wood and packing water. Aside from that piece of favoritism on the part of President Shields we can commend highly his choice of timber for bureau heads.

It very soon developed that the men present were very favorably inclined toward an organization of the character outlined and a date was fixed for a meeting to be held in Bradshaw to conclude the final arrangements for perfecting the organization. This meeting will be held Friday, November 12th. The organization committee was enlarged from a small to a large body and is composed of the following members:

Waco: F. P. Shields, R. F. Getty, A. C. Stream, L. E. Cooper, C. F. Backemeyer.

Bradshaw: J. H. Currie, E. C. Bishop, Bert Palmer, J. C. Reed, Ed Hickey.

Thayer: C. M. Horsfall, D. W. Price, O. B. Liedtke.

McCool: A. R. McFadden, Charles Kuns, Charles Tharp.

Beaver: Frank Widle, Charles Purinton, Reverend Wonderlich.

Benedict: E. W. Witten, A. Schneider, William Herrold.

Hays: Will Shipley, Jesse Wolstenholm, John Boren.

Baker: John Morgan, Fred Saddoris, Frank Broadwell.

York: Wade Read, George W. Shreck, W. J. O'Donnell, J. G. Alden.

The officers of the organization committee are F. P. Shields, Waco, chairman, and J. G. Alden, York, secretary.

The representatives passed approval on the draft of a form of government for the association. The name suggested is the York County Community Association. Any citizen of York County may become a member. The governing body is a Congress composed of three members chosen from each local community club. A local club in each township of the county is the aim of the association. Each club will have a representation of three on the governing body. The work of the association will be performed in the main by bureaus, such as labor, live stock and agriculture, education, highways, and the like.

If the meeting of Monday evening can be taken as an index of the general feeling, the association is launched on a successful course and the Bradshaw meeting will complete the organization in short order and with widespread enthusiasm.

The election of officers resulted as follows: F. P. Shields, Waco, president; R. E. Simmons, Bradshaw, vice president; E. C. Bishop, Bradshaw, secretary; L. E. Cooper, Waco, treasurer; A. R. McFadden, McCool, sergeant at arms.

The first duty confronting the officers is the organization of the entire county. The plan of the organization committee calls for community clubs in all the townships, each local club to have three representatives in the county assembly. An intensive effort will shortly be made to get an organization in each locality and the following committee was chosen to undertake the organization work; Dr. F. S. Morris, McCool; R. F. Getty, Waco; David Price, Thayer; George Myers, Bradshaw; S. W. Gillan, York; A. L. Clem, Gresham; William Herrold, Benedict.

Of a meeting at Bradshaw the following was said:

Under the impulse given to the formation of local community clubs by the York County Community Association, recently organized, the good people of Bradshaw Township met at Harmony Church on Monday evening and organized a community club.

The organization was there effected by the election of the following officers: George I. Myers, president; Dr. W. C. Muirhead, vice president; James W. Stratton, secretary; Mrs. Harry Turnbull, treasurer; James Carlisle, sergeant at arms.

A committee, consisting of A. M. Strunk, Bert Palmer and L. D. Beltzer, was appointed by the chair to prepare by-laws for the government of the club and this committee will report at a meeting which will be held in the town hall in Bradshaw on Monday evening, December 13th.

The Bradshaw Township Club is a very happy omen of the success of the movement the county over. It is composed of both town and country people and points the way for other organizations of like nature which will work out in fine spirit the thought of the forward looking people in whose minds was born the idea of the county community association.

Editor Shields of the Waconian, to whom the York County Community Association owes much for its conception, went to the case last week and "stuck" up this scintillating comment on the York meeting:

"It's nothing if not contagious and catching! From a mere handful of enthusiasts to the proportions of thirty-two live coals, the York County Community Association has grown until its name and fame have reached and permeated each and every corner and nook in the county—and that is not all. It has made such inroads as to not only more deeply interest its discoverers, founders and promoters, but the project has animated a desire of many others of the county to "get aboard," as was evidenced at Monday night's meet in York. When you can succeed in arousing the curiosity of the farmer, the doctor, the lawyer, the merchant, the educator, the banker, the man in sedentary walks—and the newspaper man—all with one blast of the bugle, then you have started something which only time, tide and monkey wrenches can check. That feed and talkfest are deserving of more than that of a passing show. Those talks of inspiration by enthusiasts from Bradshaw, Thayer, York, McCool, Benedict, Beaver, Hays, Morton, McFadden and Waco, not only stirred from center to circumference, but they forced a rapid-fire desire to peer deeper into the project, prompting a pledge on the part of the unorganized territory to go home, peel its linen and then get into working harness. The preamble and provisions, as drawn and formulated by the committees, heretofore mentioned, were read by the secretary and then intelligently discussed by the congress, but pending more light and a more extensive representation, it was thought best to defer present adoption. No objections, that is, no serious objections were raised to the formulations by those who were in the "selective draft." At the close of the spirited meet, several delegations stood ready with invitations and appeals to hold the next meet in "our town," and after a short session of discussion, it was agreed to accept the warm welcome extended by delegates from Bradshaw to meet in their city on Friday evening, November 12th. At this meet, no doubt, the "congress" will be organized, and possibly the official personnel for the ensuing year will be chosen, so, should you desire to participate in the said selections, you should be present at this Bradshaw meet. Remember, this is an exclusive county affair—each township having equal representation—nothing more nor nothing less. Don't be deceived or mislead by those who are on the outside. Intelligence on the part of townships will be able to head off "bunk"!

CHAPTER XI

YORK COUNTY—INDUSTRIALLY

YORK'S INDUSTRIES, IN 1887—HARRISON NURSERIES—C. S. HARRISON YORK FOUNDRY—CANNING FACTORY—YORK'S SUGAR FACTORY DREAM.

York is not essentially an industrial town, but, nevertheless, with the Harrison Nurseries, of national fame in their line, and many other successful and lucrative small industries, this phase of the life of the community deserves separate, elaborate treatment and will receive the same in this segregated chapter.

First, we will present a review prepared for the local press in 1887, which will give the reader an idea of the industrial progress up to that point.

YORK'S INDUSTRIES

The Representative Industrial Interests of York

York is not merely a trading point for a small scope of adjacent territory; it is a business center. Its territory extends over several counties; and with our superior railroad accommodations, this being also a railroad center, its jobbing trade will doubtless reach out much farther still as soon as the two new roads are in operation. At present we have:

A large Roller Mill, which has a capacity of about two hundred barrels of flour per day. It is one of the very best equipped mills in the state, or in any other state for that matter, and its trade extends throughout Nebraska and into Kansas and Colorado. We also have a small grist mill located on Beaver Creek, which has a good run of local business and makes a good article of flour. Besides these, four large flouring mills are located in different portions of the county.

Four Steam Elevators handle the grain which is marketed here. These are all very large and well equipped and capable of handling an immense amount of small grain. Corn is purchased by the elevator men and by a number of others, and is stored in extensive and capacious cribs. The capacity for handling grain of all kinds is equal to that of any town west of Omaha, and yet it is frequently taxed to its utmost.

The York Foundry and machine shops is an extensive establishment and turns out heavy castings for nearly all the brick blocks in this part of the state. Steam engines are also manufactured and mills and elevators fitted out and repaired. These extensive works do a heavy business throughout the state, and have no competitor outside of Omaha and Lincoln. The buildings are of brick, and the shops are thoroughly equipped.

A Canning Factory here puts up "York Canned Goods." Last year was

the first year of this important enterprise, but the quality of the goods is pronounced superior to any other put up in the West, and equal to any in the country. Over one hundred hands are employed during the busy season, and thousands of dollars are disbursed annually for sweet corn and tomatoes. There is no light employment which yields a larger return for the money and time employed than raising these articles for the canning factory. It is a light and healthful employment and yields large returns.

The Creamery is thoroughly equipped and has a large and commodious building. At present it is not in operation, but will doubtless be started again at no distant day.

Brick Making is extensively carried on here. There is in Nebraska a scarcity of the very best clay for brick making; at least this has been supposed to be the case, and this industry had been mainly confined to a few towns, of which York is probably the most important in this line. The very best quality of clay is found in abundance and an excellent quality of brick is made. We have three or four yards in operation, and there is a good prospect of pressed brick and a tile factory this season. We have every reason to believe this industry will be extensive and profitable.

Cigar Factory. York has a first-class cigar factory, which manufactures all the leading grades, and wholesales and retails a large amount of excellent goods every year.

Blacksmith and Carriage Shops. York does a large and profitable business in this line and is represented by Wray & Johnson, James Armstrong, M. S. Herrick, Lundy & Haney, B. F. Marshall, Geo. Colling, L. Barch and others.

Merchant Tailoring. This industry is ably looked after by three good firms, and a large amount of excellent work is turned out every year. Woods Bros. employ often as high as six skilled hands. G. W. Miller and Joseph Keilbert both do an extensive business.

A long list of carpenters, painters, bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers, shoemakers and other tradesmen have their homes in York and find steady employment.

The York Nursery is one of the oldest institutions in the county and has been a vast benefit to the people, furnishing home grown fruit and shade trees in quantities to suit and whenever required. Its trade extends far into Kansas and Colorado, and through it York becomes the center of trade and source of supply for a large territory of one of the most important commodities in this western country, furnishing employment to about twenty hands. York has a Chinese laundry and several others, operated by the colored population. The only soda water and pop factory in this part of Nebraska is located at York, and the goods manufactured here are in great demand throughout this section. The cigar factory and candy factory located here also lead out with their business into other towns and help connect York with them. For a large number of goods they depend on York, and this place thus becomes the most conspicuous and does more business than any other within a large scope of country.

The board of trade is negotiating with a wood turning firm at Wymore to locate here. If this firm is secured it will be run in connection with the foundry and machine shops, and will be quite an addition to the industry of the city. The board of trade is also corresponding with other enterprises which are pointing this way. York wants a paper mill and a broom factory and will probably have them

in operation during the present year. A number of important enterprises will be located here at once to take advantage of our unrivaled railroad facilities.

HARRISON NURSERIES

No single industry of York has accomplished more to spread the reputation of the city, to spread good cheer and comfort among the people of Nebraska and extended its operations to such a wide extent beyond the borders of its own state as has the Harrison Nursery. Started through the energies and love of C. S. Harrison for everything horticultural, this business has become a financial, economic and civic success. The work of Reverend Harrison extended into so many fields, that the compiler hardly knew where to insert the following brief tribute, written in 1913, but finally decided in a way to dedicate the short chapter to discussing the industrial development of York by inserting it here.

C. S. HARRISON

C. S. Harrison was born in the State of New York, November 24, 1832. In 1844 he moved with his parents to Illinois. His father was sick when they landed in Chicago, and he had to hunt the dirty village of Chicago over for a peck of potatoes. In 1857 he commenced preaching on the frontiers of Minnesota. For four years he had to endure the privations of a new country. Sometimes he was nearly frozen. He often was obliged to ford swollen rivers. Having had some success in church work he was called by Land Commissioner Geo. S. Harris to take a colony into York in 1871. It was called the May Flower Colony. He induced several hundred people to come to York County. He preached the first sermon in York in an unfinished store building. There was an audience of fourteen. The country was new and the people very poor—most of them living in sod houses. In the spring of 1872 the Congregational Church was organized through his persistent efforts. York grew rapidly though off the line of the railroad. For seven years the people had to haul lumber and goods from Fairmont. But handicapped as they were, and without a railroad they outgrew every town on the B. & M. all the way from Crete to Hastings. The class of people who came to York shaped its future. They made and kept a clean town. A good academy building was put up; it raised a strong hope out of the despair of the grasshopper days. Then came the great liquor war, when they threatened to kill Mr. Harrison, who was the chairman of the executive committee, which was very much alive. His life was often threatened and one day two men loaded up with liquor started out to kill him. But they were knocked lengthwise by Henry Seymour. One escaped and the other on complaint of Mr. Harrison lay three months in jail and found it did not pay to be a saloon henchman. The war was fought to a finish, and the people found that decency paid. As soon as it was known that saloons were to be kept out of York, traveling men and others moved in where their boys could be safe. There are but few manufactories in York; people seemed to live on the reputation of the town and how the city grows—beating other towns which had a better start and a better location two to one. Mr. Harrison started a nursery in 1871 and in 1881 he went to Pueblo and left it with his sons. And here let me say that these sons bearing and honoring his name have done more to help the city than any

two men who have ever lived here. They keep an army of workmen and of agents. They spend most of their money where they make it and last summer put up a fine \$10,000 building.

When about sixty-seven years old Mr. Harrison's health failed. His church nerves were worn out. He had been nearly forty-two years in active work in the ministry—had built sixteen churches and received many hundreds on confession of faith—had helped found two academies and raised about a hundred thousand dollars for church and educational work. He had a right to be tired, but he had been too busy to make money. When he might have been worth a hundred thousand dollars; he had saved in these long busy years not enough to build a comfortable home. So he started an ornamental nursery on two of the weediest lots in the city. This grew to cover twenty-eight lots. Then after ten years he sold a half interest to H. S. King. Since seventy years of age he has published five works on horticulture and has another now nearly ready for the press. He has at great pains gathered the best things from Europe and America and now the C. S. Harrison Select Nursery has a reputation reaching from ocean to ocean, and Manitoba to the gulf. He is still in active work and enjoys his glorious flowers which keep up a procession of beauty from spring to the hard frosts of autumn.

At a ripe old age he is now waiting on the hither shore for the coming of the boatman to take him to the other side. Most of the co-laborers of former days have already gone over, and at times he is lonely. But he lives among pleasant memories and in glad anticipations of reunions beyond.

Upon the death of this revered servant of humanity in February, 1919, people journeyed from far and near, from all over the state of Nebraska to pay tribute to his memory, and we herewith append one of the many tributes paid in the press to the work he had performed.

CHARLES SIMMONS HARRISON

was born Nov. 24th, 1832, at Edmeston, Otsego Co., N. Y. His parents were Stephen Selick Harrison and Sarah Elizabeth Sears. He was one of seven children. Those then surviving him were Mrs. Sarah Wyckoff of Escondido, Calif., and Mrs. Phila Warner of this city. He married Miss Charlotte Amelia Cummings at Huntley, Ill., April 7th, 1859. The children born to this union were Willard A. of this city, Henry Stephen of Los Angeles, Calif., and Roxey Eleanor, who died in infancy. His wife passed on in 1871 and in the summer of 1872 he married at LeRoy, N. Y., Miss Charlotte Kitchel Rawson, who is well remembered by the early settlers of York. Mrs. Harrison died of pneumonia while residing in Boston, Mass., where Mr. Harrison was field secretary of Congregational Academies, in 1892, and in 1893 he married Miss Carrie L. Williams of Roxbury, Mass.

He did missionary work for his church throughout the West and Northwest, filled many pastorates, organized the Congregational churches here and in Arborville. He failed in health about this time and took up colonization for the Burlington and afterwards for the Union Pacific. During this time he brought many of the best citizens of York County to make their homes here. He returned to York in 1900 and built his home and began at the age of sixty-eight the building up of a new business, the growing and sale of perennials and the writing of books and articles for farm journals. At one time he was the weekly correspondent of twenty-



YORK FOUNDRY AND ENGINE WORKS, YORK



three papers and magazines and was horticultural editor of many, including the New York Sun. He used to say he talked to thousands every day though he sat in his chair at his home.

Commenced work as home missionary on the frontiers of Minnesota in 1857 before the roads and bridges got there, suffered all kinds of privations—nearly drowned, the horse sinking three times with him; nearly frozen, had to live on potatoes and tallow, and didn't know the history of the tallow and didn't want to know. He had a tract of country of one hundred miles in extent where he preached the first sermon. Sometimes on cold winter nights he was followed by gaunt timber wolves, which howled almost broken hearted, because they could not have missionary raw and warm for supper. He was called there to preach and bury the dead. He also performed many surgical operations.

He saved the life of one man badly mangled in the saw mill. His son, born after, was for five consecutive terms member of Congress, and his daughter wanted to be married by the man who saved Grandpa. The ceremony was performed in one of the largest hotels of Minneapolis just fifty-five years after the terrible accident.

YORK FOUNDRY

As Viewed in 1887

The York foundry and engine shop, which was conducted through the '80's by John C. Kilner, began the York Foundry and Engine Company in 1889, and in its very first years' business as a corporation made an excellent showing. This enterprise from the first equipped itself to handle all kinds of castings and machine work on short notice, also engine boilers, pulleys, shaftings and beltings and handled all kinds of supplies for grain elevators. With a successful record of thirty-five years behind him Mr. Kilner is still conducting this enterprise.

This foundry has been a successful institution and in 1920 is still operated by the Kilner management.

A notice of its work published in 1890 said the York Foundry and Engine Company has completed its first year's business as a corporation and the showing made is an excellent one. The company has been to great expense the past year enlarging their facilities and making their exhibition at the state fair and are now able to declare a dividend nearly equal to ten per cent.

The electric light company has also declared a good dividend on last year's business, all of which goes to show that York is a good place to establish enterprises of any kind. The institutions now here are paying the investors well, which should encourage to new enterprises to locate in our city. Any legitimate enterprise that will pay anywhere will pay in York. No institution that is now in the city is losing money. Come to York with your manufacturing plants and our citizens will assure you a welcome and will furnish what capital is needed. No fakes nor adventurers wanted, but any legitimate business will be accorded all financial encouragement necessary.

CANNING FACTORY

As early as 1886 the need of a canning factory was sounded in the press, and the following gives the industrial local viewpoint of that time:

Realizing the fact that those interested in the establishment of a canning factory in this city are anxious to gather as much information as possible, we make the following extract from the proceedings of a meeting recently held by the stockholders of the Plattsmouth canning factory:

"The first business of the meeting was hearing the reports of Secretary Lewis embodying a complete statement of the business for the past year, which showed that the company had realized handsomely upon the \$8,150 capital invested in the enterprise. The exact figures were not obtained, but the profits of the concern were away beyond anything that had been anticipated.

"Mr. C. M. Wead, from a special committee appointed to prepare a report upon the needs of the company for 1886 and outline its business, submitted his report, recommending the following additional outlay of capital:

"New store house, \$700; new engine and boiler, \$725; two new telescope machines, \$1,000; two new process kettles, \$300; two new cutters, \$400, making a total of \$3,125. He also reported that contracts had already been made for produce for the following output: tomatoes, 125 acres, 250,000 cans; corn 610 acres, 750,000 cans; beans, 30 acres, 150,000 cans; total, 1,150,000 cans.

"With a corn crop as good as that of last year, the total number of cans in the product would go far beyond the above estimate. He said that it was necessary to know immediately whether or not it was the desire of the stockholders present to go into business on this generally enlarged scale next year, or whether it would be necessary to cancel some of the above contracts for produce.

An expression of those present was called for, and several stockholders spoke with enthusiasm in favor of the proposed increase."

A very short time later the following shows the progress made and indicates the spirit with which the builders of York took hold of anything that appealed to them:

"President Wright of the canning company makes a last appeal this week to our moneyed men to take the balance of the stock necessary to make the enterprise a success. Our men of capital appear to be more interested in the three per cent a month business than some legitimate industry which would tend to make York self sustaining. The only work now afforded to the laboring men is in the line of building. The last brick will be laid on the last building in York some day, and then what work have we to offer our laboring men? The wild fowl of the air will be flying out of the windows of a number of our fine buildings inside of ten years if some move is not made soon to give permanent employment to our surplus population. We boast of the number of our banks, our excellent schools and fine churches, but all these will not make York a city that can take care of its own population. Let us have the canning factory and every other industry within our reach that will give permanent employment to skilled and unskilled labor. We have banks, schools and churches enough for our present needs. Give your town boom in another direction."

On March 4, 1886, a month later, the following excerpt shows not only the thoroughness but speed used by York business builders:

"The canning factory is at last an assured success. The company was permanently organized on Monday evening. The capital stock is placed at \$50,000. The company will commence operations with a paid up capital of \$9,000. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: Geo. W. Post, president; Cyrus

Hutchins, secretary; D. E. Sedgwick, treasurer; H. B. Dibble, general manager. The above named gentlemen with Dr. H. Reader, J. B. Read, R. E. Leach and D. N. Blood constitute the board of directors. A committee was appointed to secure a location. Work will be commenced next and will be pushed as rapidly as possible. Mr. T. C. Rutter, of Glenwood, Iowa, has been engaged as process man, and is expected to arrive in the city this week with his family.

We are informed that the company will begin the work of making cans at once. Much credit should be given the retiring temporary president, Mr. Wright, for the constant and tireless attention which he gave to the enterprise from the very first. The stockholders are men of means, and among the most successful of our business men. The success of the company is now assured."

Looking back upon the young enterprise when it was a year old, we find this perspective:

The annual meeting of the York Canning Company was held on Monday evening at the office of Kingsley & Hutchins. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: W. H. Bagnell, president; vice president, Robert Wright; secretary and general manager, H. B. Dibble; treasurer, D. E. Sedgwick. The board of directors is composed of the above named officers and Martin Burns, James Stewart, J. C. Lenox and J. P. Miller. It is expected that the factory will be in good running order by the first of March, and everything points to a good year's business ahead for the company the coming year.

York County had one other industrial dream, which, despite all of the work expended in its promotion, did not materialize, and that was an effort to secure a sugar factory.

DOES YORK WANT A BEET SUGAR FACTORY?

How can we get one? What will be its advantages? That is what we want to find out.

France, Germany, and other European nations have been making sugar from beets successfully for years. All the information that we can gather says that Nebraska can produce beets with a larger per cent of sugar than Europe, California of any other part of the world. If this so what is to hinder us from producing the sugar for the nation? It will take 1084 factories the size of the one at Grand Island run to their full capacity to supply the amount of sugar we are now importing, while 5,000 acres will produce all the beets one factory can consume. This will require 5,000,000 acres planted in beets, employ 2,500,000 people and require not less than \$500,000,000 capital for manufacturing alone, so there is no danger of over production in the near future. If we can establish the fact that we can successfully raise beets containing a high per cent of sugar the factory will come. A few of the advantages are: It will require a large quantity of brick and other material and employ a large amount of capital and become a large tax payer; will employ at least 500 hands, who will require houses and the necessaries of life; this will furnish more business for merchants and more of a market for all kinds of farm produce. The direct benefit to the farmers will not be so much in the raising of beets or the cheapening of sugar as in the diversity of farm crops and increased home market for other products, and the increase in the value of their property, from the impetus that all lines of business will re-

ceive from increased capital and employment of labor. One man without improved machinery can probably raise ten acres of beets from which he will make as much money as from farming eighty acres of corn. The farmer need not expect to make a fortune from raising beets but when we have learned how to raise them to the best advantage, it will undoubtedly be a profitable business. Those who have raised beets this year for the factory at Grand Island complain that it has not been profitable. But last season was very unfavorable. They have not yet learned the best methods of raising beets, or employed the improved machinery that is now being manufactured, and Mr. Oxnard contracted with them at a price fully \$1.00 per ton less than they are now paying at the factory in California. It is unreasonable to condemn the whole business on such a short trial. Believing that the beet sugar business offered more to all our people than anything else in sight, the County Fair Association appointed a committee to look up the matter of experimenting in raising beets to see if we can raise beets in York County containing a sufficient per cent of sugar to warrant a factory in locating at York. The committee, in conjunction with the board of trade of York, will furnish the seed and such information as to the best methods of raising the beets as they can obtain and will attend to every man's having beets analyzed. This analysis will be consolidated into one report showing what each man's beets analyzed; this report to be published and laid before beet sugar men and capitalists, showing that we can raise beets that contain a per cent of sugar that will warrant a location of a factory here. We want at least ten farmers in each precinct in the county to raise a patch, measuring the ground accurately and keeping a correct account of cost of production weight of product, methods of cultivation, etc. The beets are excellent feed for stock and will pay as well as any other crop you can raise for that purpose. We will not be prepared to furnish seed before March, but want to talk with you and get ready before that time. Hand in your names so we will know how much seed will be needed. We have established headquarters at the office of Robert Rae, secretary of the county fair, where we will be happy to meet you. Drop a postal card with your address and we will send you the Beet Sugar Enterprise, that will give you all needed information on the subject.

J. W. SMALL,

H. READER,

S. SPELLMAN,

Committee.

An effort was made to secure an acreage of 5,000 to guarantee a factory. But this did not materialize. But the effort was not all in vain, for it promoted an industry that yielded no small revenue to some of the citizens for a few years. But the hard times of the years following the 1894 brought on other troubles and the sugar beet idea dried up, like the crops.

The commercial rosters in the next chapter of this work show the list of industries that developed in York County from 1890 until the present time.

CHAPTER XII

COMMERCIAL HISTORY OF YORK

EARLY COMMERCIAL LIFE YORK'S FIRMS IN 1886—YORK'S FIRMS IN 1887—THE TOWN'S CALIBRE—BUILDINGS IN 1887—BLOOMER'S CONSERVATORY OF LUMBER MUSIC LUMBER MUSIC AND MUSIC OF LUMBER—FIRMS IN 1900—ROSTER OF FIRMS IN 1913—COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATIONS—LIST OF MEMBERS AND BUSINESS MEN, 1921—YORK HOTELS.

EARLY COMMERCIAL LIFE OF YORK

In various parts of this work, heretofore, have appeared accounts of the early life of the Town of York, which have gone into detail of the arrival, flourishing careers and departure of many business enterprises. Beginning with the first store of Elwood Brothers and the succeeding store of J. H. Bell, mention has already been made of many businesses of the late seventies and early eighties. The stores doing business in York before 1882 have been elsewhere mentioned. The accompanying illustration of a business directory of 1884 and 1885 will bring to mind many more. The policy has been adopted to compile a commercial roster of listing the businesses in existence in 1887, then a list of those in 1900, another list of those in operation in 1913 and a final list of all individuals and business enterprises supporting membership in the York County Commercial Club in 1920.

YORK'S BUSINESS MEN IN 1886

THIS SLIGHT SKETCH OF THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN WHO WERE MAKING YORK A BOOMING BUSINESS CENTER WAS PUBLISHED ABOUT 1886.

YORK'S LEADING FIRMS

First National Bank with a capital of \$50,000 is doing an immense business. F. O. Bell, president and H. C. Kleinschmidt, cashier.

York National Bank is also one of the strongest institutions of the city, capital \$50,000. Hon. G. W. Post, president, and E. M. Battis, cashier.

Citizens State Bank capital \$50,000 is a strong and reliable institution and is doing a good business. J. W. Barnes, president, W. A. Sharrar, cashier.

York Savings Bank is a young but remarkably healthy concern and is transacting a good business. G. P. Chessman, president, M. A. Green, cashier.

Real Estate Firms. York probably contains more live engergetic real estate men than any city of like importance in Nebraska. The real estate dealers of York are all wide-awake and are assisting to make York of the future an im-

portant city. The representative real estate men are Baldwin & Crapser, successors to Lundeen & Cook; Simmons & Green, F. F. Mead, Kingsley & Hutchins, Hopkins & Cowan, Cowell & Burns, J. W. Small, Buckmaster & Knight, Daggy & Atkins, Stark & Mosher, and others all of whom are entirely reliable.

Clothing. Among the live clothing men may be mentioned Robert Armstrong, W. K. Williams and Woods Bros.

Dry Goods. The dry goods trade is well represented by E. M. Cobb & Co., D. J. Colling, Woods Bros., J. F. McConaughy, Ewen & Butler, John S. Knott, C. L. Meissner and Carl Zimmerer.

Grocers. York is well supplied in this line of trade, among whom may be mentioned Coles & Thomas, Carl Zimmerer, Knight Bros., J. S. Knott, E. R. Shamp, Hughes & Evans, Germond & Talbot, W. H. Lacey, Burr and Kolb, Chilcote & Co., Geo. A. Beck, J. W. Cook, Wm. Rae and W. C. Burr.

Druggists. This line is represented by Wyckoff & Knapp, Panter & Bishop, Bagnell Bros., G. H. Jerome & Co., and S. A. Dorr.

Hardware Dealers are: A. C. Snyder, S. C. Grippen & Co., E. V. Zimmerer and Blixt & Fisher.

Harness Makers. E. Stache, the pioneer harness maker of York County began manufacturing here in 1873 and is an energetic business man. He is now the owner of considerable real estate in the city. W. C. Kneeshaw is younger in the trade, but has a good patronage. Woodley & Norton is the latest to embark in the business. W. Bernstein is operating a shop near the depot.

Title Abstracts. Buckmaster & Knight have a new and complete set of abstract books. Chris Hallstrom and Baldwin & Crapser have the oldest set of books in the county.

Attorneys. The York bar is among the best in the state and is represented by the following legal lights. Sedgwick & Power, Scott & Gilbert, France & Harlan, Edward Bates, Merton Meeker, D. H. Bishop, W. M. Cowell, T. Eddy Bennett, J. F. Hale, A. C. Montgomery, M. C. Frank, D. T. Moore, J. C. Carnahan and John D. Reed.

Physicians. Doctors, G. W. Shidler, J. J. Porter, R. M. McConaughy, D. E. Sedgwick, B. F. Farley, D. D. Foristall, Carscadden & Blackburn, A. O. Faulkner, J. C. Panter and T. J. Hatfield and J. A. Dieffenbacher dentists.

Boots and Shoes. The exclusive boot and shoe trade is confined to Oscar Froid and Vail & Greene, while a dozen or more firms handle boots and shoes in connection with other lines.

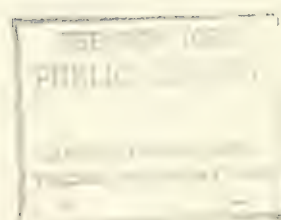
Jewelers. The jewelry firms are four in number and carry fine assortments of goods. They are Westervelt Bros., W. L. Whedon, Wm. Cochran and F. M. Dillon.

Bakeries. Two bakeries are now in operation by W. R. Furnam and J. S. English.

Agricultural Implements. Liniger & Metcalf Co., Anderson & Strosser, F. J. Jones, Philip Ritger, and Henry Seymour.

Lumber Dealers. The lumber trade is in the hands of energetic business men who push it for all that it is worth. The firms are C. N. Carpenter, A. F. Bloomer, National Lumber Co., and the York Lumber Co.

Coal Dealers. The coal dealers are, H. C. Shepardson, E. A. Warner, C. N. Carpenter and Joseph Morrison.



Meat Markets. The butcher trade is in the hands of Henry Jeffery, J. F. Clark, J. R. Bevaridge and O. N. Kelley.

Hotel Men. The hotels are managed by A. Blodgett, C. B. Hackney & Son, O. W. Cole, Geo. S. Hyde, H. B. Seeley; and there are a number of restaurants.

Confectionery. A. F. Robinson, A. Stevens, P. W. Dale, G. W. S. Coon, Linch & Blackburn, Frank McCann, J. L. Dever and a number of others.

Sewing Machines and Musical Instruments. John Oppfelt, E. Hetzel manager, Singer Manufacturing Co. and a score of agents.

Millinery Establishments. Harry E. Wells & Co., "Little Store," Mrs. Dibble, H. A. Buffum, D. J. Colling and others.

Furniture Dealers. York has two of the largest and most complete furniture stocks in Nebraska; M. B. Atkins and Baer Bros. are the proprietors.

Livery Men. York has ten strong livery firms; the leading ones are W. L. Clark, Southworth & Fosterburg, Krakel Bros., B. B. York, J. Smith, T. M. O'Neal and others.

Newspapers. York has three as good papers as any inland town in the state, two of which have steam power. The Democrat the official paper of York County, the only democratic paper in the county is published by Geo. F. Corcoran. The Republican, the oldest paper in the county is published by Morgan & Dayton. The Times, republican in politics, is published by Sedgwick & Bell. The Collegian is a monthly published by the students of the York College. Two other weekly papers are published in the county, one at Bradshaw, the Gazette, published by E. F. Chittenden, the pioneer newspaper man of York County, and the Leader, at Waco, published by G. C. Freeman.

Photo Artist. I. F. Kennedy has at present the exclusive patronage of the city in this line and is compelled to employ a number of assistants to properly care for his immense patronage.

Barber Shops. Five barber shops employing twelve barbers do the tonsorial part of the city's business, the leading firms being, Meradith, Clapp & Swartz, Ballard & Norton and three other shops.

The following roster of firms in business in York in 1887, will recall many familiar names. Of these, probably only Wm. Bernstein, harness, C. N. Carpenter, coal, and George Chilcote, groceries, are still in the same business. Druggist Jerome and H. C. Kleinschmidt are also holdovers from that generation.

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

Baldwin & Crapser, 610 Lincoln Ave.
Buckmaster & Knight, Opera Block.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Anderson & Strosser, northeast corner
Beaver Ave. and 5th St.
Burr & Van Tuyl, 528 Grant Ave.
Liniger & Metcalf Co., 115-117 W.
6th St.
Ritger, Philip, 426 Grant Ave.
Seymour, H., 108-110 W. 6th St.

ARCHITECTS

Bell, T. M.
Hutcherson, J. L., Opera Block.
Sherman, N. A., 628 Iowa Ave.

ATLAS PUBLISHER

Meacham, J. H., 104 W. 6th St., up
stairs.

ATTORNEYS

Bates, Ed., 610 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.
Bennett, T. Eddy, county judge's
office.

Carnahan, J. C., 623 Lincoln Ave.
 Cowell, W. M., room 2, Masonic Block.
 France & Harlan, 522 Grant Ave.
 Frank, M. C., 107 E. 6th St. up stairs.
 Hale, J. F., 107 W. 6th St.
 Meeker Bros., 610 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.
 Moore, D. T., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.
 Montgomery, A. C., room 1, Bell's Block.
 Scott & Gilbert, 104 W. 6th St., up stairs.
 Sedgwick & Power, over savings bank.
 Wollard W. S., York National Bank.
 Wildman, M. M.

BAKERIES

City, W. R. Furman, 613 Lincoln Ave.
 York, J. R. Gasaway, 121 E. 6th St.

BARBERS

Baldwin & Randolph, under savings bank.
 Ballard & Norton, 515 Lincoln Ave.
 Dever, S. K., Broadway, corner 3rd St.
 Meradith, Clapp & Swartz, under York National Bank.
 Spencer, F. W., under Citizens State Bank.

BANKS

Citizens State Bank, 100 E. 5th St.
 First National, 601 Lincoln Ave.
 York National, 529 Lincoln Ave.
 York Savings, 101 E. 6th.

BILLIARD HALLS

Gardner, J. S., east side Broadway.
 Smick, Daniel, 116 E. 5th St.
 Marston, Geo. E., 629 Lincoln Ave.

BLACKSMITHS

Armstrong, James, 400 Grant Ave.
 Barch, E. L., 200 Lincoln Ave.
 Lundy & Haney, 722 Lincoln Ave.
 Marshall, B. F., Jr., northwest corner 3rd St. n. of B. & M. Railroad.
 Wray & Johnson, 114-116 W. 5th St.

BOARDING

Chessman, Mrs. Mary, 927 York Ave.
 Cheney, George, 509 Burlington Ave.
 City Dining Hall, 411 Lincoln Ave.
 Grantham, W. P., 521 Burlington Ave.

Iowa House, 601 Platte Ave.
 Paley, Mrs. Sarah, 411 Grant Ave.
 Reader, H. 627 Beaver Ave.
 St. Elmo House, 709 Lincoln Ave.
 Waverly House, near B. & M. depot.
 Wyoming House, 123-125 W. 6th St.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY

Bagnell Bros., 429 Lincoln Ave.
 Dorr, E. H., North B. & M. depot.
 Hesser, Chas., 109 E. 6th St.
 Jerome & Co., 123 E. 6th St.
 Panter & Bishop, 609 Lincoln Ave.
 Stewart, Miss N. D., 120 E. 5th St.
 Wyckoff & Knapp, 103 E. 6th St.

BOOTS AND SHOES

Armstrong, Robt., 525 Lincoln Ave.
 O. Froid (exclusive), 107 E. 6th St.
 McConaughy, J. F., 620 Lincoln Ave.
 Vail & Greene (exclusive), 114 E. 5th St.
 Zimmerer, Carl, 124 E. 5th St.
 Harms, A. (manufacturer), 509 Lincoln Ave.
 Reisinger, E. (manufacturer), 422 Grant Ave.
 Stache, E. (manufacturer), 503-505 Lincoln Ave.
 Westervelt, Peter (manufacturer), 723 Lincoln Ave.

BUGGIES

Read, J. F., 426 Grant Ave.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

Bick, John, 110 Grant Ave.
 Heislar, D., 312 Grant Ave.
 Herrick, H. E., 205 E. 4th St.
 Collier, J. J., 614 Grant Ave.
 Miller, N., N. B. & M. railroad.
 Morgan & Green, 728 Lincoln Ave.
 Sherman, N. A., 628 Iowa Ave.
 Sprague, Geo., 715 Lincoln Ave.

CANDY MANUFACTORY

Reader Bros & Co., 104 E. 5th St.

CIGAR MANUFACTORY

Doerffel Ed, 501½ Lincoln Ave.

BRICK AND STONE CONTRACTORS

Meehan, Phillip, 644 E. 10th St.
 Meehan, Lawrence, 808 Grant Ave.
 Peabody, Geo. E., 514 Nebraska Ave.

BRICK YARDS

Courtney & McBride Bros., near south-east city limits.

Ittner, John C., N. side B. M. railroad.

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Taylor, H. C., 826 Grant Ave.

Ward, H. F., boards Blodgett House.

BROKER

Rae, Robert, 604 Lincoln Ave.

CLOTHING

Armstrong, Robt., 525 Lincoln Ave.

Williams, W. K., 106 E. 5th St.

Woods, Bros., 622-624 Lincoln Ave.

COAL

Carpenter, C. N., South of B. & M. depot.

Morrison, Jos., corner 8th and Lincoln Ave.

National Lumber Co.

Shephardson, H. C., northeast corner Broadway and Grand Ave.

Warner, E. A., 124 W. 6th St.

COLLECTION AGENTS

Bowker, H. H., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.

Burns, M., Masonic Block.

Flock, Geo., 216 Lincoln Ave.

Snow, A. L., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.

CONFECTIONERS

Cook, E., Broadway.

Dever, J. L., Broadway.

Linch & Duley, 524 Grant Ave.

McCann, F. L., Postoffice, 120 E. 5th St.

Jacobs, N., 514 Grant Ave.

Reader Bros. & Co., 104 E. 5th St.

Robinson, A. F., 611½ Lincoln Ave.

Stevens, A., 617 Lincoln Ave.

DENTISTS

Deiffenbacher, J. A., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.

Hatfield, T. J., Bell's Block.

Ziegler, G. O., 606 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

DRESSMAKERS

Brady, Miss Jennie, 619 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

Bullock Sisters, 322 6th St.

Carlson Sisters, 607 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

Doerffel, Miss Amelia, 210 E. 7th St.

Hayes & Franer, 211 E. 6th St.

Robbins Sisters, west side Broadway.

Snodgrass & Page, over postoffice.

Torrance & McLeod, 119 W. 6th St.

DRY GOODS

Cobb & Co., 603 Lincoln Ave.

Colling, D. J., 119 E. 6th St.

Ewen & Butler, 112 E. 5th St.

Knott, Jno. S., 507 Lincoln Ave.

McConaughy, J. F., 620 Lincoln Ave.

Meissner, C. L., 628 Lincoln Ave.

Woods Bros., 622-624 Lincoln Ave.

Zimmerer, Carl, 124 E. 5th St.

DRUGGISTS

Bagnell Bros., 429 Lincoln Ave.

Boyer & Troutman, 521 Lincoln Ave.

Dorr, E. H., north of B. & M. depot.

Jerome & Co., 123 E. 6th St.

Panter & Bishop, 609 Lincoln Ave.

Wyckoff & Knapp, 103 E. 6th St.

ELEVATORS

Chessman, G. P., elevator D, B. & M.

Davidson, J. M., elevator B, B. & M.

Fisher, David, south B. & M. depot.

Ragan, H. W., elevator A, B. & M.

Wirt, G. W., elevator C, B. & M.

FOUNDRY AND ENGINE WORKS

Kilner, John C., Prop., corner Grant Ave. and 10th St. •

FURNITURE

Atkins, M. B. Lincoln Ave.

Baer Bros., 122 E. 5th St.

GROCERS

Beck, Geo. A., 616 Lincoln Ave.

Chilcote & Co., 607 Lincoln Ave.

Cook, J. W., 619 Lincoln Ave.

Coles & Thomas, 110 E. 6th St.,

Frew, W. L., 516 Grant Ave.

Gleason, T., 111 E. 6th St.

Knott, Jno. S., 507 Lincoln Ave.

Knight, Bros., 501 Lincoln Ave.

Lacy, W. H., 113 E. 6th St.

Lohr, J. J., west side Broadway.

Page & McCue, 701 Lincoln Ave.

Shamp, E. R., 511 Lincoln Ave.
Treat C. P., 600-602 Grant Ave.

HARNESS

Bernstein, Wm., opposite Carpenter's
Lumber Yard.

Kneeshaw, W. C., 608 Lincoln Ave.
Norton & Barbee, 515 Lincoln Ave.
Stache, E., 503-505 Lincoln Ave.

HARDWARE

Blixt & Fisher, east side Broadway.
Grippen & Co., 105 E. 6th St.
Snyder, A. C., 626 Lincoln Ave.
Zimmerer, E. V., 502-504 Grant Ave.

HOTELS

Blodgett House, 413-419 Lincoln Ave.
Commercial Hotel, corner Lincoln Ave.
and 7th St.
Iowa House, 601 Platte Ave.
St. Elmo House, 709 Lincoln Ave.
Waverly House, near B. & M. depot.
Wyoming House, 123-125 W. 6th St.

HORSE IMPORTERS

Fry & Fahrbach, corner Burlington
Ave. and 5th St.

ICE

Kelly & Carpenter, north B. & M. de-
pot.
Warner, E. A., 124 W. 6th St.

INSURANCE

Baldwin & Crapser, 610 Lincoln Ave.
Boynton, F. A., 522 Grant Ave.
Buckmaster & Knight, Opera Block.
Coddington, A. B., Kuns' Block.
Cowell, W. M., Room 2, Masonic Block.
Daggy, F. B., 104 W. 6th, up stairs.
Green, M. A., 604 Lincoln Ave.
Halstrom, Chr., with Baldwin & Crap-
ser.

Hamlin Bros., Masonic Block.
Hewett, Chas. S., with Scott & Gilbert.
Mead, F. F., 512 Grant Ave.
Nobes, C. J., Opera Block.
Reed, Luther, at Commercial Hotel.
Smith, E. W., 703 Lincoln Ave.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Carnahan, J. C., 623 Lincoln Ave.
Frank, M. C., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.
Hyde, Geo. S., Waverly House.

LAUNDRIES

Brigham, C. W., 808 York Ave.
Chinese, 707 Lincoln Ave.
Spooner, J. L., 120 W. 5th St.

LIVERY AND FEED STABLES

Clark, W. L., 712-716 Lincoln Ave.
Cully, W. H., 401 Grant Ave.
Ferguson & Owens, southwest corner
Broadway and Grand Ave.
Krakel Bros., 628 Grant Ave.
Smith & Martin, 414 Lincoln Ave.
Southworth & Forstenburg, 115-117-119
W. 5th St.
York, B. B., corner 3rd and Plum St.

LUMBER

Bloomer, A. F., 1028 Lincoln Ave.
Carpenter, C. N., south of B. & M. de-
pot.
National Lumber Co., between 3rd and
4th Sts.

MARBLE WORKS

David & Kildow, 114 W. 6th St.

MEAT MARKETS

Beveridge, J. R., 510 Grant Ave.
Clark, J. F., 611 Lincoln Ave.
Jeffery, Henry, 605 Lincoln Ave.
Kelly, O. N., west side Broadway.

MERCHANT TAILORS

Eckles, J. A., Kuns' Block.
Keilbert, Jos., Union Block.
Miller, G. W., 717 Lincoln Ave.
Raper, F. A., 405 Lincoln Ave.
Rosenlof, Nils, City Block.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Oppfelt, John, 109 E. 6th St.
Robbins Bros., Broadway.
Wood, W. G.

MILLINERY

Buffum, Miss H. A., 705 Lincoln Ave.
Colling, D. J., 119 E. 6th St.
Dibble, Mrs. H. B., 625 Lincoln Ave.
Wells, H. E. & Co., 627 Lincoln Ave.

NOTIONS

Buffum, Miss H. A., 705 Lincoln Ave.
Cobb & Co., 603 Lincoln Ave.
Wells, H. E. & Co., 627 Lincoln Ave.
Westervelt & Fisher, 723 Lincoln Ave.



WEST SIDE OF THE SQUARE, YORK



NORTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE, YORK



NEWS

Stewart, Miss, N. D., postoffice.

NEWSPAPERS

Democrat, 421 Lincoln Ave., Geo., F. Corcoran, Prop.

Republican, 609 Platte Ave., Dayton & Frank, Props.

Times, 118 E. 5th St., up stairs, Sedgwick & Bell, Props.

OILS

Thomas, W. S., tank line, rear 522 Grant Ave.

PAINTERS

Brown & Seeley, 116 W. 6th St.

McFall, L. N., 228 Nebraska Ave.

Pierson, N. P., 726 Lincoln Ave.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kennedy, I. F., 107 W. 6th St., up stairs.

Smith Bros., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.

PHYSICIANS

Carscadden & Blackburn, 607 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

Davis, J. N., east side Broadway.

Farley, B. F., 606 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

Faulkner, A. O., Bells' Block.

Foristall, D. E., 606 Lincoln Ave.

McConaughy, Robert, 109 W. 6th St.

Sedgwick, D. E., 527 Lincoln Ave., up stairs.

Shidler, G. W., 125 E. 6th St., up stairs.

POP MANUFACTORY

Garternicht, F., 215 E. 4th St.

PRODUCE

Craske, James, 105 Grant Ave.

Joy, Walter, 124 E. 5th St., down stairs.

PUMPS, PIPE AND WIND MILLS

Briley, James, 426 Grant Ave.

Graham & Tenney, Broadway, near B. & M. depot.

REAL ESTATE AND FARM LOANS

Baldwin & Crapser, 610 Lincoln Ave.

Buckmaster & Knight, Opera Block.

Codding, A. B., Kuns' Block.

Cowell, W. M., Room 2, Masonic Block.

Daggy, F. B., 104 W. 6th St., up stairs.

Daniels, Charles, Bell's Block, room 1.
Halstrom, Chr., with Baldwin & Crapser.

Hamlin Bros., Masonic Block.

Hopkins & Cowan, over York National Bank

Kingsley & Hutchins, over York National Bank

Mead, F. F., 512 Grant Ave.

Newman, A. J., district clerk's office.

Nobes, C. J., Opera Block.

Simmons & Green, 604 Lincoln Ave.

Snow, A. L., 107 E. 6th St., up stairs.

Smith, E. C., 615 Lincoln Ave.

Stark & Mosher, 106 W. 6th St.

Ward, A. C., 107 W. 6th St.

RESTAURANTS

Capitol, 500 Grant Ave., H. J. Roberts, Prop.

Delmonico, 621 Lincoln Ave., H. Bates, Prop.

Dever, J. L., Broadway.

SEWING MACHINES

Hetzel, E., Singer Co., 114 E. 5th St.

Oppfelt, John, 109 E. 6th St.

Seymour, H., 108-110 W. 6th St.

SECOND HAND STORE

Palmore & Miller, 506 Grant Ave.

SHOOTING GALLERY

Burton, C. P., 715 Lincoln Ave.

STOCK DEALERS

Fisher, D.

Morrison & Wirt.

Wagner, S. F., north B. & M. depot.

UNDERTAKERS

Atkins, M. B., 527 Lincoln Ave.

Baer Bros., 122 E. 5th St.

WAGON MAKERS

Colling, G. C., with B. F. Marshall, north B. & M. depot.

Gould, W. H., 118 W. 5th St.

Herrick, M. S., 205 E. 4th St.

Peterson, John, rear 722 Lincoln Ave.

WATCHES, CLOCKS AND JEWELRY

Cochran, Wm., 523 Lincoln Ave.

Westervelt Bros., 107 E. 6th St.

Whedon, W. L., 606 Lincoln Ave.

THE TOWN'S CALIBRE

There are two classes of towns, those which are essentially and entirely commercial and strain every energy to their business development, and the other class of town which will put much more stress upon church, school and social development, somewhat at the sacrifice of pure business progress. York very early assumed the latter attitude, and while the question is always a mooted one, it has two sides, and we present the following argument formed as long ago as 1884 in favor of York's stand. York very early assumed the stand it did not want to be a saloon, or liberal, town, and stayed by that idea probably more loyally than any town of its size in Nebraska.

LIVELY YORK

How the Town Is Booming The Status of the Temperance Question.

York, Neb., February 4, 1884.

EDITOR Tribune:—After leaving the prettiest town in the state, January 31, I arrived here the following morning by the way of the U. P. to Central City, and then by the B. & M. to the busiest, the boomingest town to the square inch, I have seen anywhere. York is coming to the front in good shape. Immense brick blocks have been built the past season and others now nearing completion, and it appears like the good work is only begun.

I overheard some parties figuring on the best way to remove wooden buildings around the square, this morning, to be replaced by brick. Everybody wants brick buildings, they appear to have taken a kind of mania on that subject. Those parties referred to decided that the wood structures could be removed cheaper by cyclone than in any other way.

I desire to show a wide difference between Fremont and this town, as regards the whiskey traffic. Fremont has about twelve saloons, while this place has none; there is simply nothing of the kind to be had here by those who want it as a beverage. I find after a little talk with several of the business men that the carpenters, bricklayers and all other mechanics, also the common laboring class nearly all have comfortable homes; their families are clothed, and they pay their grocery bills, consequently the merchants are not put to the trouble of getting up a black list.

We have heard it oft repeated that a town without saloons was a dead one and I must confess I have been guilty of making like assertions. But now I believe it to be a great mistake. Whiskey is not the lever here at any rate, and the town is not dead. She has got the best of schools and whiskey didn't build the school-houses. Her people elect good men to office, and strong drink cuts no figure at the polls. The ladies look neat and pleasant, because there are no drunken husbands, fathers or brothers at home. In a word a tippler here would be the most unpopular creature living.

Being aware of the fact that there are several good, honest men in Fremont who have fallen in the way of this enemy of all mankind, who really desire to sever those chains so galling. I would advise them to flee from those pitfalls and come to a town free from all such evils, where there is work for all, and a quiet comfortable little home with a happy wife and smiling upturned faces to meet you, when the day's work is done.

York County is one of the best in the state. I have yet to hear a word of complaint from the farmers about last year's crops.—P. H. W.

A roster of York's public buildings as they were then gracing the city in 1887 will tend to show the stage of progress reached at that time.

PROMINENT BUILDINGS

Public and Private Edifices, that Stand as Monuments to York's Thrift, Prosperity and Enterprise

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

The Buildings, which at first were all frame and quite small, have gradually been replaced by large and elegant brick buildings, until now the brick predominates over the frame in the business part of the town. There are in the city two solid brick blocks, and on the east side of Lincoln Avenue, from Sixth to Seventh streets, and one on Fifth Street from Lincoln to Grant avenues, besides a number of other large and handsome brick blocks. The first brick building was erected north of the railroad by S. A. Ward in 1878. It is a large store with office and living rooms on the second floor. It is a substantial and creditable building. In 1880 Edward Bates erected a two story building on the corner of Sixth Street and Grant Avenue, the northeast corner of the square. This building was constructed for the use of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and was considered quite an enterprise at the time. From this time dates the substantial and rapid growth of our city, which has proceeded steadily and with increasing rapidity until the present time. In the summer of 1880 F. O. Bell built the south room of Bell's Block on Lincoln Avenue, to which he has added four elegant and commodious brick buildings, and the fine block is completed by Kuns' Building, on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Seventh Street. In this block are six stores 100 feet deep, above which are Bell's Hall, a large number of fine offices, and living rooms.

The central public school building was also constructed in 1880. This is a two-story brick with eight rooms and broad hall and stairways.

In 1881 the *York County Bank Building*, owned and occupied by the York Savings Bank, was built on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Sixth Street, at a cost of \$7,000. This is an elegant two-story brick with basement, and compares favorably with any building of its kind in this or any other city. In the suite adjoining this on the north is the two-story brick building with three rooms on the ground, built by A. D. Wyckoff and Bell, Lundeen and Cook. The north two-thirds of this building is owned by Baldwin and Crapser. Connected with the bank building on the east and fronting the square is Mr. Wyckoff's fine two-story brick drug store, and adjoining this last year Mr. Wyckoff and Judge D. T. Moore erected the *Commercial Block*, which contains two large and very elegant stores on the first floor and four offices on the second. The building is 100 feet deep.

Nobes Opera Block on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Fifth Street was constructed in 1881. It is a fine three-story brick structure and cost \$25,000. On the first floor are four good business rooms fronting the square. The second story is at present occupied by the county offices and other business offices, and the third

story is a large opera hall, seating about nine hundred. Joining this, on the east is *Masonic Block*, which was completed last summer. It is a two-story brick, 100 feet deep, and has three store rooms below. On the second floor is the best masonic hall in the state of Nebraska, with large banquet hall, kitchen and all necessary anterooms. The hall is nicely furnished and is, without doubt, one of the very finest in the West. This building is owned by C. J. Nobes and W. M. Cowell.

Union Block, another fine two-story brick, with four fine store rooms, each 100 feet deep, joins Masonic Block on the east and completes the solid brick row from Lincoln to Grant Avenue. Union Block is owned by Messers. J. Zümmerer, Moses Einsel and C. J. Nobes.

The First National Bank Building, a two-story brick on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Sixth Street, is a very handsome structure, and is finished in a very costly and substantial style. Immediately north of this is *Central Block*, built last season by the First National Bank. Mr. Jeffery's and Mr. Chilcote's join this building on the north. This block is a two-story brick with iron front, three large stores below and offices above, and is the handsomest structure in the city.

City Block is situated on Lincoln Avenue, fronting the public square and extending as far north as Sixth Street. It is of brick, two stories high, 100 feet long, and contains three elegant business rooms with offices and living rooms on the second floor. It was built by the York National Bank, J. C. Kingsley, R. Armstrong and E. O. Wright, and is probably one of the most costly blocks in the city.

About the center of the square on the east side, F. F. Mead has a very handsome one-story brick, which he occupies with his real estate and loan business.

A good sized *brick hotel* stands on Lincoln Avenue south of Fifth Street. Mr. Blodgett, the proprietor, intends to enlarge and remodel it this season and has his plans all ready, and will commence work as soon as the season is fairly opened. It will be three stories, heated by steam, and will have all the modern improvements for safety, comfort and convenience.

There are a large number of good frame business houses, and many of them contain large stocks of goods. There are no vacant rooms that are at all suitable for business purposes, and the demand seems to exceed the supply all the time, though several large buildings are put up each year.

BLOOMER'S CONSERVATORY OF LUMBER MUSIC

York's commercial history presents to the commercial world of the country one of the most remarkable illustrations of real live-wire advertising which antedated by a quarter-century the peppy national advertising associations. The following excerpts showing the farewell to York commercial life of Bloomer's "Conservatory of Lumber Music," and the tribute paid by the York press some twenty years later, and a sample of the character of advertising which made this business famous, will tend to perpetuate the record of this enterprise.

Robert Bonner was once asked why he took whole pages of his paper to announce that "Fanny Fern writes only for the New York Ledger;" he replied, "To make people ask questions," and said in conclusion, "If I hadn't done so you would have never asked me that question." An advertisement that arouses

interest is the only real valuable advertisement, and no one realizes that better than the subject of this sketch. Mr. A. F. Bloomer, the York lumber man, is a man of almost inexhaustible versatility and a great traveler. He has the happy faculty of entertaining as well as selling you goods. His motto, "Live and let live," is humorously illustrated by a monkey holding a cat by the tail, who is vainly endeavoring to overhaul a tardy rodent. Mr. Bloomer's extensive lumber yards, an engraving of which we present to our readers herein, are complete in everything that the lumber trade demands, from pine from Michigan to rosewood from the equatorial regions. Speaking of Mr. Bloomer's qualifications as a business man, the Mississippi Valley Lumberman and Manufacturer, a prominent journal of the trade, has remarked recently: "We wish the western world's lumber trade was all in the hands of such men as A. F. Bloomer, of York, Neb., the boss lumberman of that state. He is worth about a thousand common men in the development of a new country. He believes in printer's ink."—(1888).

Mr. Bloomer announces in this paper the sale of his lumber business to the C. N. Dietz Lumber Co., of Omaha, who have already taken possession. Mr. O. M. Dunn, the secretary of the company, is here and has been in charge of invoicing and has completed the transfer. Mr. Chapin, the efficient assistant for Mr. Bloomer, will be in charge. He is well and favorably known throughout the county and the company has done wisely in selecting him for manager. The C. N. Dietz Company is one of the best known and most reliable wholesale lumber firms in the state. For many years Mr. Bloomer has been the acknowledged leader in the lumber trade not only in this county but in this part of the state. He has as wide a reputation as a retail lumber dealer as any man in the country and is said to be the best man in his line in the country. Mr. Bloomer has been in the business in York for more than twenty years and his "lumber music" is a familiar refrain. The people of the county will be lonesome without it. We are glad to learn that he intends to remain in York and will busy himself with other business.

To My Friends and Patrons:

After a period of over twenty years of active business life in York, I have decided to retire from the lumber trade, and enjoy a much needed rest, and herewith announce the sale of my lumber business to the C. N. Dietz Lumber Co., of Omaha, who will be my successors here.

We all feel proud of York, and its growth from a straggling, scattering village of twenty-five years ago to its present large population, with modern business blocks and beautiful homes, and it will ever be a pleasure to think that I have been an active factor in their production. And I wish to thank you, one and all, for your influence and patronage all the past years. For it was with your assistance that the "Live and Let Live," price on building material was made a success, and your appreciation of that oft-repeated motto has been shown many times. Even to the closing hour of my business in York, Saturday, December 3d, when the large volume of business transacted was gratifying beyond my expectations.

Many times in the past I have had special advertisements about the "Boys," active members of the Lumber Music Choir. To each one I feel especially thankful for the faithful services rendered; and it is sincerely a hard task to end the pleasant business relations with them that have lasted so many years.

I will make my home in York, as in the past, and next week will open an office in the Boyer Block, when I will be pleased to meet my friends and patrons of the past.

My successors, the C. N. Dietz Lumber Co., of Omaha, a Nebraska concern, which has been in business in the state twenty-five years, you will find pleasant and liberal people to deal with. Their methods of doing business for honesty and fairness have won them in other fields an enviable reputation, and I feel assured that the same policy will be carried out here.

I am also pleased to say that their force of employes will consist, in part, of the same old Lumber Music Veterans, who so long served me faithfully and well.

I especially desire to thank all the members of the newspaper fraternity throughout York County, and elsewhere, for their kind expressions of good will from time to time, as the judicious use of printer's ink is the salvation of the business man.

Thanking you all again, I am, Very truly yours, A. F. BLOOMER.

BLOOMER STILL BOOSTING

Pasadena Star-News Says He Is the Best Booster in Business

The Democrat is in receipt of a Pasadena Star-News containing the portrait of our old friend A. F. Bloomer, and telling about his recent trip east. The Star-News says that Mr. Bloomer is the best and busiest booster for Pasadena that ever happened along the road. Well, there's no use telling us. We knew Mr. Bloomer the Booster long before Pasadena knew him. Nothing new about him boosting. He's been at it ever since the Missouri River bluffs were holes in the ground. He boosted for York for years on end, and still admits that next to Pasadena it is the best spot on earth. The only thing we can not understand about him is that he persists in putting Pasadena first.

But it is gratifying to note that Bloomer is still boosting, and that his ability along that line of human endeavor is recognized by his fellows in Pasadena.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Lumber Music and Music of Lumber

Friend Bloomer:

What have I been doing?

Why, I've been among the pines,
Gathering up the splinters
For the Lumber Music Rhymes.

I've wandered through the wild north woods,
Far from the white man's track,
And often seen the wild red deer
Drop at my rifle's crack.

Yes, I've slept in camps in winter,
When the snow was four feet deep,
And the whistle of the keen winds
Through the pines lulled me to sleep.

And you bet I slept the sounder,
In this wintry bed of snow,
At the thought of sport that I would have
When from the woods I'd go.

I've cooked in rough log cabins;
I've held the foreman's pen.
I've been a fine haired, tony boss
O'er gangs of working men.

Ah, yes, I've seen the lumber camp,
Among the trees so tall.
I never was a logging boy, but
I think I've seen it all.

Oh, yes, I've seen the chopping,
The skidding and the haul,
The rolling on the landing,
Where on the ice they fall.

Yes, I've eaten my share of salt pork,
Baked beans, slap jacks and—well
I've often enjoyed the stag dance
When evening on 'us fell.

Or else perhaps a game of cards,
Or mend a woolen shirt,
And resolve on the coming Sunday
To wash out part of the dirt.

Not for us, the majestic churches,
With bells, to ring the time.
Ours the blue azure temple
Propped by lofty pines.

No doctor here to feel our pulse,
Or stuff us with his wares;
We're always strong and healthy,
As the black and frisky bears.

And when mild spring at length does break
Stern winter's icy bonds,
The freshet breaks the landing,
And the logs go rushing on.

Some men will ride the floating logs
While other's far less bold,
With cant hooks on their shoulders,
Along the bank will stroll.

And some will drive the rapids
In haste to reach the boom,
And others more unlucky
To chilly baths are doomed.

We see the head has reached the boom,
The ark will soon there be,
It's then the boys will all be paid
And have a roaring spree.

I've seen the logs all sorted,
Their owners' booms to all,
And stood upon the steam tug's deck
That tows them to the mill.

A man will hook the drag chain on
And up the way they'll slide,
Then roll upon the carriage
To take a swift short ride.

The saw is humming merrily,
Its strength it seems to feel;
Full many a log has perished
By its well gummed tooth of steel.

The rider moves the lever,
The carrier moves along,
The log's career is ended
With the sawyer's merry song.

The slabs will pass the edger,
To the trimmer move along,
And at last are all converted
Into lumber, clear and strong.

But if the log is unsound,
The carriage we'll forsake,
We'll cut it into blocks,
And shingles quickly make.

And now the boards and shingles
To the toiling pilers go,
And wait for barge and schooner
From the port of Chicago.

And we'll ship down forty carloads
 To headquarters there at York,
 'Twill bottle up monopoly,
 You please sit on the cork.

Respectfully yours,

"WILL MC."

Sing, brother, sing, to the tune of
 Live and Let Live.

A. F. BLOOMER.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1900

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

Baldwin & Wyckoff, 610 Lincoln Ave.
 Ferguson, Franklin & Co., 106 W. 6th
 St.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Belcher, Wm., 120 W. 6th St.
 McCormick Harvester Co., 416 Grant
 Ave.
 Rankin & Co., 214 E. 5th St.
 Wood, S. F., 616 Grant Ave.

ATTORNEYS

Bates & Kirkpatrick, 501½ Lincoln
 Ave.
 Bennett, T. E., 106½ E. 6th St.
 Bemis, Geo. W., Sr., 602 Grant
 Brown, E. J., 121½ E. 6th St.
 Fletcher, E. A., 602 Grant Ave.
 France, Geo. B., 522 Grant Ave.
 Gilbert Bros., 105½ W. 6th St.
 Harlan & Taylor, 602 Lincoln Ave.
 Meeker, M., 517½ Lincoln Ave.
 Montgomery, A. C., 121½ E. 6th St.
 Moore, D. T., 105½ E. 6th St.
 Purinton, J. W., 121½ E. 6th St.
 Sedgwick & Power, 121½ E. 6th St.
 Snodgrass, R. L., 104½ W. 6th St.
 Stroman, C. F., 501½ Lincoln Ave.
 Wyckoff, W. W., 610 Lincoln Ave.

BAKERIES

Falkinburg, H. L., 107 E. 6th St.
 Furman, W. R., 613 Lincoln Ave.

BANKS

City National Bank, Harris M. Childs,
 president; Fred E. Bodie, cashier;
 123 E. 6th St.
 First National Bank, Geo. W. Post,
 President; E. J. Wightman, cashier;
 529 Lincoln Ave.

BARBER SHOPS

Ingrey, J. L., 501 Lincoln Ave.
 Meradith, B. C., 529 Lincoln Ave.
 Schmelzel & Bouslough, 503 Lincoln
 Ave.
 Turley & Bedell, 601 Grant Ave.

BICYCLES

Boston, O. W., 711-713 Lincoln Ave.
 Gocke, Gust, 512 Grant Ave.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY

Colling & Son, 114 W. 6th St.
 Fredericks, J. W., 400 Grant Ave.
 Gould, D. R., 128 W. 5th St.
 Murphey, James E., 410 Lincoln Ave.
 Tilden, N. F., 812-816 Lincoln Ave.
 Wray, Wm., 120 W. 5th St.

BUTTER MANUFACTURERS

South Platte Creamery Company, 1433
 Division Ave.

BOOTS AND SHOES

Holdeman & Co., 111 E. 6th St.
 Meehan, Dennis, 601 Lincoln Ave.

BOTTLING WORKS

Baer, Henry, 515 Iowa Ave.

BRICK MANUFACTURER

Ittner, John, yard south terminus East Ave.

BUILDING MATERIAL

Bloomer, A. F., 1028 Lincoln Ave.
Smith & Rogers Lumber Co., 328 Lincoln Ave.

CARPENTERS AND CONTRACTORS

Heislar, D. Y., 508 Nebraska Ave.
Morgan, W. L., 728 Lincoln Ave.
Trowbridge, J. C., 120 Iowa Ave.

CARRIAGES AND WAGONS

Belcher, Wm., 120 W. 6th St.
Jones, F. J., 528 Grant Ave.
Marshall & Shepardson, 624-26 Lincoln Ave.

Rankin & Co., 214 E. 5th St.

CHINA AND GLASSWARE

Gould & Northup, 114 E. 5th St.
Snyder, A. C., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.
Sturtevant & Son, "The Leader," 622-624 Lincoln Ave.

CARRIAGE REPOSITORIES

Marshall & Shepardson, 624-626 Lincoln Ave.
Tilden, N. F., 727-729 Lincoln Ave.

CARRIAGE PAINTERS

Curtis & Son, 114 W. 5th St.

CARPETS AND CLOAKS

Cobb, C. C., 519 Lincoln Ave.
Colling & Meissner, 119 E. 6th St.
Davies, C. L., & Co., 523 Lincoln Ave.
Rader, John, 122 E. 5th St.

CIGARS AND TOBACCO

Houston, L. I., 109 E. 6th St.
Zimmerer, Carl, 508 Grant Ave.

CLOTHING

Behling, Herman, 525 Lincoln Ave.
Hopkins, Geo., 104 E. 5th St.
Williams, W. K., 605 Lincoln Ave.
Woods Bros., 509 Lincoln Ave.

COAL DEALERS

Brakeman, D. J., 628 Grant Ave.
Morrison, S. C., 800-810 Lincoln Ave.
Smith & Rogers Lumber Co., 328 Lincoln Ave.
VanWickle, F. P., 327-329 Lincoln Ave.
Warner, E. A., 200 E. 5th St.

COLLECTIONS

Snodgrass, R. L., 106½ W. 6th St.

DENTISTS

Dieffenbacher, J. A., 117½ E. 6th St.
Hatfield, T. J., & Son, 517½ Lincoln Ave.
Meradith, J. M., 105½ E. 6th St.
Ziegler, G. O., 106½ W. 6th St.

DRESSMAKERS

Chase, Mary, 211 E. 6th St.
Hall, Mrs. Jennie, 509½ Lincoln Ave.
Knago, Carrie, 427½ Lincoln Ave.
Nuss, Anna, 427½ Lincoln Ave.

DRUG STORES

Boyer, W. G., 521 Lincoln Ave.
Cowan, C. M., 505 Lincoln Ave.
Jerome & Co., 121 E. 6th St.
Kirk, Dr. Wm., 1519 Lincoln Ave.
Nobes & Co., 100 E. 5th St.
Palace Pharmacy Co., 608 Lincoln Ave.
Ryan, A. J., 103 E. 6th St.

DRY GOODS

Cobb, C. C., 519 Lincoln Ave.
Colling & Meissner, 119 E. 6th St.
Davies, C. L., & Co., 523 Lincoln Ave.
Mansfield, S. E., 515 Lincoln Ave.
Newman, A. J., Grocery Co., 616 Lincoln Ave.
Rader, John, 122 E. 5th St.

EXPRESS COMPANIES

Adams Express Company, 700 Lincoln Ave.
American Express Company, corner Lincoln Ave. and 3d St.
Wells-Fargo Express Company, 519 W. 5th St.

FLOUR AND FEED

Warner, E. A., 200 E. 5th St.
York Roller Mills, 229 Lincoln Ave.
York Water Mills, near southeast terminus. City limits.

FRUITS AND CONFECTIONERY

Chilcote & Co., 507 Lincoln Ave.
King & Son, 116-118 E. 5th St.
Mansfield, S. E., 513 Lincoln Ave.
Zimmerer Carl, 508 Grant Ave.

FURNITURE

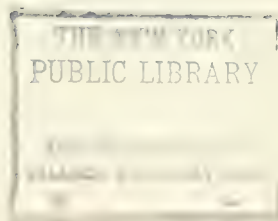
Baer & Son, 527 Lincoln Ave.



WALL STREET, YORK



WEST SIDE OF SQUARE, YORK



Jackson, E. H., 514 Grant Ave.
 Lang, Otto, 603 Lincoln Ave.
 Miller & Miller, 120 E. 5th St.

GENTS' FURNISHINGS

Behling, Herman, 225 Lincoln Ave.
 Hopkins, Geo., 104 E. 5th St.
 Williams, W. K., 505 Lincoln Ave.
 Woods Bros., 509 Lincoln Ave.

GRAIN ELEVATORS

McCloud Grain Co., 1427 Lincoln Ave.
 Smith, T. W., Grain Co., 401 Division Ave.

VanWickle, F. P., 327-329 Lincoln Ave.

GROCERIES

Bissell & Son, 117 E. 6th St.
 Chilcote & Co., 507 Lincoln Ave.
 King & Son, 116-118 E. 5th St.
 Kleinschmidt & Son, 207 E. 6th St.
 Lawton, Mrs. Clara, 1505 Lincoln Ave.
 Mansfield, S. E., 513 Lincoln Ave.
 Newman, A. J., Grocery Co., 616 Lincoln Ave.
 Page, H. C., 511 Lincoln Ave.
 Rader, John, 122 E. 5th St.

HARDWARE

Cropsey, F. D., 105 E. 6th St.
 Hyder, J. V., 517 Lincoln Ave.
 Snyder, A. C., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.
 Sturtevant & Son, "The Leader," 622-624 Lincoln Ave.
 Zimmerer, E. U., 502 Grant Ave.

HARNESS AND SADDLERY

Bernstein, Wm., 510 Grant Ave.
 Jones, F. J., 528 Grant Ave.
 Stache, E., 507 Lincoln Ave.

HOTELS

Blodgett House, 415-419 Lincoln Ave.
 City Hotel, 1520 Lincoln Ave.
 LeGrand Hotel, 702-708 Lincoln Ave.
 Miller House, 628 Lincoln Ave.
 St. Elmo Hotel, 709 Lincoln Ave.
 Taylor House, 506 Grant Ave.

JEWELERS

Hannis, F. A., 101 E. 6th St.
 Smith, Ira A., 427 Lincoln Ave.

JUNK DEALER

Comstock, C. M., 1015 Grant Ave.

LAUNDRIES

Model Steam, 401-403 Lincoln Ave.
 Pearl Steam, 116-118 W. 6th St.

LIBRARIES

York Public Library, 105½ W. 6th St.

LIVE STOCK

Daily & Stahl, 401 Division Ave.
 Sheeks, I. H., 1427 Lincoln Ave.
 Test, A. B., 303 E. 17th St.
 Vandreff, H. E., 314 East Ave.
 VanWickle, F. P., 327-329 Lincoln Ave.

LIME AND CEMENT

Bloomer, A. F., 1028 Lincoln Ave.
 Smith & Rogers Lumber Co., 328 Lincoln Ave.

LIVERY AND FEED STABLES

Brittain, J. E., & Son, 414 Lincoln Ave.
 City Livery, W. L. Osborn, 115-123 W. 5th St.
 Fitzpatrick & Son, 201 W. 5th St.
 Kirk, J. B., 630 Grant Ave.
 Pence Bros., 710-716 Lincoln Ave.
 Wendell, Douglas, 218 Lincoln Ave.

MACHINE WORKS

Downie-Wright Mfg. Co., 118-126 W. 15th St.
 York Foundry and Engine Works, 912-928 Grant Ave.

MARBLE WORKS

Kildow, J. N., 108-110 W. 6th St.

MEAT MARKETS

Mansfield, S. E., 511 Lincoln Ave.
 Moore & Hogan, 524 Grant Ave.
 Sawyer & Waddle, 611 Lincoln Ave.

MERCHANT TAILORS

Keilbert, Jos., 717 Lincoln Ave.
 Lloyd, John, 615 Lincoln Ave.
 Miller, G. W., 621 Lincoln Ave.
 Olson, John, 423 Lincoln Ave.
 Rosenlof, Niels, 525½ Lincoln Ave.

MILLINERY

Bon Ton Millinery Store, 113 E. 6th St.
 Cobb, C. C., 519 Lincoln Ave.
 Collings & Meissner, 119 E. 6th St.
 Newman, Gertrude, 625 Grant Ave.
 Rader, John, 122 E. 5th St.

MUSIC PUBLISHER

Parks, J. A., 501½ Lincoln Ave.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Elarth, P. N., 610 Grant Ave.

Pierce & Bell, 102 E. 5th St.

NEWS STANDS

Fowe, Geo. A., 606 Grant Ave.

NEWSPAPERS

Teller-Democrat, 114½ E. 5th St.

York Republican, 418-420 Lincoln Ave.

York Daily and Weekly Times, 607-611 Grant Ave.

OIL COMPANIES

Standard Oil Co., corner 4th St., and Beaver Ave.

OPERA HOUSES

Auditorium, corner Grant Ave. and 7th St.

Nobes' Opera House, corner Lincoln Ave. and 5th St.

OPTICIANS

Hannis, F. A., 101 E. 6th St.

Smith, Ira A., 429 Lincoln Ave.

OSTEOPATH

Kilgore, J. Mark, 909 East Ave.

PAINTS AND OILS

Boyer, W. G., 521 Lincoln Ave.

Cowan, C. M., 505 Lincoln Ave.

Jerome & Co., 121 E. 6th St.

Nobes & Co., 100 E. 5th St.

Palace Pharmacy Co., 608 Lincoln Ave.

Ryan, A. J., 103 E. 6th St.

Seeley, Z. L., 617 Lincoln Ave.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Henderson, J. M., 611½ Lincoln Ave.

Vanliew, A. J., 501½ Lincoln Ave.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Conaway, J. B., 517½ Lincoln Ave.

Davis, J. N., 517½ Lincoln Ave.

Farley, F. B., Opera Block.

Hanna, C. B., 607½ Lincoln Ave.

McConaughy, Robert, 107 W. 6th St.

Reynolds, W. F., 207 E. 5th St.

Shidler & Moore, 121 E. 5th St.

Sedgwick, D. E., 505½ Lincoln Ave.

Vradenburg, H. L., 123 E. 7th St.

PLUMBING

Chambers, W. J., 517 Lincoln Ave.

Payne, D. W., 516 Grant Ave.

Snyder, A. C., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.

PRINTERS AND BINDERS

Nebraska Newspaper Union, 607-617 Grant Ave.

PRODUCE DEALERS

Craska, Jas., 215 S. Lincoln Ave.

Eldredge & Gilbert, 100 S. Lincoln Ave.

RAILROAD DEPOTS

Burlington & Missouri River, corner 14th St., and Lincoln Ave.

Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley, corner 3d St., and Lincoln Ave.

Kansas City & Omaha, corner W. 5th St., and Division Ave.

REAL ESTATE AND LOANS

Baldwin & Wyckoff, 610 Lincoln Ave.

Campbell & Christian, 501 Lincoln Ave.

Corcoran & Carlin, 114½ E. 5th St.

Dean, N. A., 105 W. 6th St.

Ferguson, Franklin & Co., 106 W. 6th St.

McCloud & Shreck, 115 E. 6th St.

Sovereign, M., 503 Lincoln Ave.

White & Son, 102 W. 5th St.

RESTAURANTS

Allen, J. C., 500 Grant Ave.

Dever, J. L., 106 E. 5th St.

Falkinburg, H. L., 107 E. 6th St.

Hall, J. B., 1509 Lincoln Ave.

Reader, W. H., 425 Lincoln Ave.

Turley & Washburn, 427 Lincoln Ave.

ROLLER MILLS

York Roller Mills, 201-229 Lincoln Ave.

York Water Mills, near southeast corner city limits.

SASH DOORS AND BLINDS

Bloomer, A. F., 1028 Lincoln Ave.

Smith & Rogers Lumber Co., 328 Lincoln Ave.

SEWING MACHINES

Elarth, P. N., 610 Grant Ave.

Rankin & Co., 214 E. 5th St.

SHOEMAKERS

Nelson, C. P., 601 Lincoln Ave.

Nordeen, J. M., 111 E. 6th St.
 Reisinger, E., 200 E. 5th St.
 Westervelt, P., 703 Lincoln Ave.

SHEET IRON WORKS

York Foundry and Engine Works, 912-928 Grant Ave.

SIGN PAINTERS

Fountain, Joseph, 710 Lincoln Ave.
 Rosenlof, F., 424 Grant Ave.
 Seeley, Z. L., 617 Lincoln Ave.

STEAM FITTING

Payne, D. W., 516 Grant Ave.
 Snyder, A. C., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.
 York Foundry and Engine Works, 912-928 Grant Ave.

STENOGRAPHER

Brooks, Pearl, 224 College Ave.

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANIES
 Nebraska Telephone Company, Opera Block

Western Union Telegraph Co., depots.

TIN SHOPS

Boston, O. W., 711-713 Lincoln Ave.
 Copsey, F. D., 105 E. 6th St.

Hyder, J. V., 517 Lincoln Ave.
 Snyder, A. C., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.
 Zimmerer, E. V., 502 Grant Ave.

TRANSFER LINES

Custer, C. C., 223 Grant Ave.
 York Transfer Association, 105 W. 6th St.

UNDERTAKERS AND EMBALMERS

Undertakers Supply Co., 112 E. 5th St.

VETERINARY SURGEON

Taylor, W. M., 219 E. 5th St.

WATCHMAKERS

Hannis, F. A., 101 E. 6th St.
 Smith Ira A., 429 Lincoln Ave.

WAGON MAKERS

Colling & Son, 114 W. 6th St.
 Jacobs, Henry, 400 Grant Ave.
 Tilden, N. F., 812-816 Lincoln Ave.

WIND MILLS

Andrews, A. E., 124 W. 5th St.
 Graham, B. F., 1211 Lincoln Ave.
 Tenney, C. C., 214 E. 5th St.

BUSINESS ROSTER IN 1913

A jump of thirteen years and another survey of the business and commercial interests of the city will disclose the passing of the first business generation and the entrance upon the stage of commercial activities of many sons, head clerks and office boys of the original business pioneer institutions of the city.

ABSTRACTS

Wyckoff, W. W., 610 Lincoln Ave.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Belcher & Belcher, 120-122 W. 6th St.
 Marshall & Oppfelt, 714-718 Lincoln Ave.
 Rankin, W. F., 414 Lincoln Ave.
 Rystrom Implement Co., 329 Lincoln Ave.

AUCTIONEERS

Thompson, A. W., 1216 Iowa Ave.

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS AND REPAIRERS

Central Garage, The, 123 E. 7th St.
 Jones, A. M., 404-406 Lincoln Ave.
 Regier, Henry, 728 Lincoln Ave.
 Valentine, F. E., Auto Co., 729 Lincoln Ave.

York Auto Co., 720 Lincoln Ave.

AUTOMOBILE LIVERY

Farmers Exchange, 802 Lincoln Ave.
 Huff, M. W., 123 E. 7th St.
 Kirk & Hiner, 416 Grant Ave.
 Mapps, W. E., 123 E. 7th St.

AUTOMOBILE TIRE REPAIRERS

Original Puncturefix Co., 34 First National Bank Bldg.

BAKERS

Chain, J. H., 107 E. 6th St.
 Furman, W. R., 613 Lincoln Ave.

BARBERS

Bayley, L. J., 518-520 Grant Ave.
 Cox, J. W., 725 Lincoln Ave.
 Goble & Bouslough, 501 Lincoln Ave.
 Gocke, H. H., — Lincoln Ave.

Pitches, O. J., 109 E. 6th St.

Reed, O. C., 621 Lincoln Ave.

Schmelzel, Andrew, 529 Lincoln Ave.

BICYCLE MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS

Gocke, G. G., 510-512 Grant Ave.

BICYCLE REPAIRERS

York Tire & Repair Co., 723 Lincoln Ave.

BILL POSTERS

Stapleton, G. A., 620 W. 5th St.

BLACKSMITHS

Bovey & Smith, 113 E. 15th St.

Hansen, S. F., 128 W. 5th St.

Welch, A. V., 224 E. 5th St.

BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS

Bradwell, E., 505 Lincoln Ave.

Jerome & Detrick, 121 E. 6th

Meradith & Wallander, 600 Grant Ave.

Ryan & Trout, 605 Lincoln Ave.

BRICK—WHOLESALE

York Brick & Tile Co., 300 W. 18th St.

BROOM MANUFACTURERS

Porter, L. E., 118 W. 15th St.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Porter, L. E., 118 W. 15th St.

York Brick & Tile Co., 300 W. 18th St.

BUILDING MATERIAL

Clarke, E. S., & Co., 314-328 Lincoln Ave.

Liggett Lumber & Coal Co., 1000 Lincoln Ave.

Van Wickle Grain & Lumber Co., 327-329 Lincoln Ave.

York Brick & Tile Co., 300 W. 18th St.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

York Mutual Building & Loan Association.

CARBONATED BEVERAGES

Furman, W. R., 613 Lincoln Ave.

CARRIAGE AND WAGON MAKERS

Tilden, N. F., 812 Lincoln Ave.

CEMENT BLOCK MANUFACTURERS

Liggett Lumber & Coal Co., 1000 Lincoln Ave.

CEMENT BUILDING BLOCKS

Porter, L. E., 118 W. 15th St.

CEMENT WORK

York Construction Co., 116 W. 15th St.

CHINA AND GLASSWARE

Bullock, G. A., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.

CHIROPODIST

Ewer, Mrs. Alice, Nobes Block.

CHIROPRACTORS

Callahan, B. O., 511 Lincoln Ave.

CIGAR MANUFACTURERS

Habermann, Henry, Jr., 525 Lincoln Ave.

CIGARS AND TOBACCOS—RETAIL

Bayley, L. J., 518-520 Grant Ave.

Chilcote, G. E., 607 Lincoln Ave.

Furman, W. R., 613 Lincoln Ave.

Price & Crawford, 608 Lincoln Ave.

CLEANERS AND PRESSERS

City Sutorium, 607 Lincoln Ave.

Hesler's Cleaning Works, 114 W. 6th St.

York Dry Cleaning Works, 423 Lincoln Ave.

CLOTHING

Behling Clothing Store, 527 Lincoln Ave.

Linstrom, C. O., 111 E. 6th St.

Peterson Clothing Co., 603 Lincoln Ave.

Williams, Sam., & Son, 120 E. 5th St.

Woods, E. B., 523 Lincoln Ave.

COAL—WHOLESALE

Carpenter, C. N., 115 W. 5th St.

COAL AND WOOD—RETAIL

Brakeman, D. J., 726 Lincoln Ave.

Carpenter, C. N., 115 W. 5th St.

CONFECTIONERY—RETAIL

Chilcote, G. E., 607 Lincoln Ave.

Collingham, H. E., 719 Lincoln Ave.

Furman, W. R., 613 Lincoln Ave.

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

York College, Kiplinger Ave., northeast corner 9th St.

CONTRACTORS—BRICK

Ittner, John, 410 E. 6th St.

York Construction Co., 116 W. 5th St.

CONTRACTORS—CARPENTERS AND

BUILDERS

Bick, C. E., 410 Grant Ave.

Green, G. H., 725 E. 9th St.

Heisler, D. Y., 613 Platte Ave.

Lagasse, Hugh, 402 Iowa Ave.
 Peterson, C. C., 703 Kingsley Ave.
 Peterson, L. V., 1518 Lincoln Ave.
 Sanders, J. R., 609 Platte Ave.
 Stapleton, J. W., 229 Grant Ave.
 York Construction Co., 116 W. 5th.

CONTRACTORS—CEMENT

Cooke & Markle, 415 Platte Ave.
 Cox, Lincoln, 323 W. 6th St.
 Dougherty, G. W., 1204 Lincoln Ave.
 Porter, L. E., 118 W. 15th St.
 York Construction Co., 116 W. 5th St.
 Zieg, Frederick, 638 E. 11th St.

CONTRACTORS—ELECTRICAL

York Gas & Electric Co., 113-115 W. 7th St.

CONTRACTORS—GENERAL & MASONRY
 York Construction Co., 116 W. 5th St.

CONTRACTORS—PLASTERERS

Kaufman, A. L., 1424 E. 9th St.

CONTRACTORS—SIDEWALK

Porter, L. E., 118 W. 15th St.
 York Construction Co., 116 W. 5th St.

CREAMERIES

Keystone Creamery, The, 408 Lincoln Ave.

DAIRIES

Cunningham, J. P., 419 Delaware Ave.
 Home Dairy, 405 W. 3d St.
 Masters, Edward, 613 W. 4th St.
 Nisser, G. R., 415 East Ave.

DENTISTS

Byrnes, C. S., 505 Lincoln Ave.
 Calkins Bros., 525 Lincoln Ave.
 Hatfield, T. J., 104 W. 6th St.
 Meradith, J. M., 31 First National Bank.
 Wildman, H. R., 117 E. 6th St.

DRESSMAKERS

Anderson, Emeline, 413 Beaver Ave.
 Buchholz, Mrs. Frances, 519 Nebraska Ave.

DRUGGISTS

Boyer, W. G., 521 Lincoln Ave.
 Bradwell, E., 507 Lincoln Ave.
 Cowell & Felton, 100-102 E. 5th St.
 Jerome & Detrick, 121 E. 6th St.
 Ryan & Tout, 605 Lincoln Ave.

DRY GOODS

Cobb, C. C., Co., The, 519 Lincoln Ave.
 Fisher, I. A., 622 Lincoln Ave.
 Mansfield, S. E., 517 Lincoln Ave.
 Pratt, Mrs. M. J., 624 Lincoln Ave.
 Read Dry Goods Co., 701-705 Lincoln Ave.

ELECTRIC FIXTURES

York Gas & Electric Co., 113-115 W. 7th St.

FEED BARNs

Farmers' Exchange, 802 Lincoln Ave.
 Smith Bros., 200 W. 5th St.

FEED AND FLOUR

Foster, J. B., 515 W. 5th St.
 Brakeman, D. J., 726 Lincoln Ave.
 Chilcote, G. E., 607 Lincoln Ave.
 Van Wickle Grain & Lumber Co., Lincoln Ave.

FLOURING MILLS

York Milling Co., 201-223 Lincoln Ave.

FOUNDRIES AND MACHINISTS

York Foundry & Engine Works, 912 Grant Ave.

FURNITURE DEALERS

Baer, W. C., & Co., 602-604 Grant Ave.
 Rademacher Furniture Co., 615 Lincoln Ave.
 White, A. M., 522 Grant Ave.

GRANITE AND MARBLE WORKS

York Granite Works, 122-124 W. 7th St.

OILS

Farmers' Independent Oil Co., 114 E. 16th St.
 National Refining Co., 528 W. 7th St.
 Standard Oil Co., 320 E. 4th St.

PAINTERS

Bartholomew, C. A., 400 Lincoln Ave.
 Peterson, G. E., 511½ Lincoln Ave.
 Rosenlof, Frank, 216 W. 19th St.
 Welch, E. E., 708 Iowa Ave.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chambers, O. M., 501 Lincoln Ave.
 Johnson Post Card & Art Store, 612-614 Grant Ave.
 Kilbourn Studio, 611½ Lincoln Ave.
 Thorne, W. L., 107 E. 6th St.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Bernard, W. L. (O.), 48 First National Bank Bldg.

Conaway, J. B. (R.), 624 E. 6th St.

Eckles, W. F. (Eye Ear Nose & Throat), 1011 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 6th St.

Farley, B. F. (R.), Nobes Block.

Kilgore, J. M. (O.), 1051 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 6th St.

Knapp, W. R. (R.), 424 Nebraska Ave.

Lancaster, J. S. (R.), 32 First National Bank Bldg.

Latham, Henrietta (O.), 48 First National Bank Bldg.

McConaughy, Robert (R), 26 First National Bank Bldg.

Tobkin, J. H. (R.), 41 First National Bank Bldg.

McKinley & Zimmerer (R.), 6251 $\frac{1}{2}$ Grant Ave.

Moore & Shidler, 121 E. 6th St.

Plumb, J. N. (Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat), 602 Grant Ave.

Root, B. A., 2 Marshall & Cain Bldg.

Snyder & Hanna, 607 Lincoln Ave.

Vradenburg, H. L., 629 Grant Ave.

Watkins, Rachel (R.), 625 Grant Ave.

PIANOS AND ORGANS

Johnson Bros., 606 Lincoln Ave.

Troutman, Mrs. M. F., 704 Beaver Ave.

PLUMBERS, STEAM AND GAS FITTERS

Bullock, G. A., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.

Chambers, W. J., 118 W. 6th St.

Kleiner, Charles, 113 E. 15th St.

PRINTERS, BOOK AND JOB

Corcoran, Sprague & Dayton, 418 Lincoln Ave.

Moore, E. G., 209 E. 6th St.

Standard Printing Co., 723 Lincoln Ave.

York Blank Book Co., 613-615 Grant Ave.

York Printing Co., 427 Lincoln Ave.

RESTAURANTS

Bruce Cafe, 425 Lincoln Ave.

Kroy Cafe, The, 115 E. 6th St.

Peterson, L. V., 1229 Lincoln Ave.

Reo Cafe & Ice Cream Parlor, 104-106 E. 5th St.

Rood, R. J., 1225 Lincoln Ave.

Simms, J. R., 715 Lincoln Ave.

Star Cafe, The, 707 Lincoln Ave.

GROCERS

Andrews, A. E., 122 W. 5th St.

Chain, J. H., 107 E. 6th St.

Chilcote, G. E., 607 Lincoln Ave.

Corcoran, J. A., 513 Lincoln Ave.

Dreier, A. H., 1503 Lincoln Ave.

Emerson, A. M., 116 W. 6th St.

Failing, A. A. 1227 Lincoln Ave.

Hackethal, J. E., 516 Grant Ave.

Kilbourn, O. H., 628 Lincoln Ave.

Kleinschmidt, H. C., 207 E. 6th St.

Knapp, Ira, 1527 Lincoln Ave.

Pratt, Mrs. M. J., 624 Lincoln Ave.

Schroeder, F. W., 119 E. 6th St.

Stein, Wm. S., Co., 216-218 E. 5th St.

HARDWARE

Bogue, J. P., 105 E. 6th St.

Bullock, G. A., 618-620 Lincoln Ave.

McMullen, Edward, 502-504 Grant Ave.

Snyder, A. C., 114 E. 5th St.

HOTELS

Blodgett Hotel, 415-421 Lincoln Ave.

Central Hotel, 601 Platte Ave.

Cottage Hotel, 1500 Lincoln Ave.

Hotel LeGrand, 700-708 Lincoln Ave.

Reese Hotel, 1300 Lincoln Ave.

INSURANCE AGENTS

Brott, H. W., 605 Lincoln Ave.

Bryan, J. W., 4271 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lincoln Ave.

Crone, C. B., 6131 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lincoln Ave.

Davis, W. H., 1171 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 6th St.

Ferguson, N. M., 106 W. 6th St.

Fisher, C. W., 6251 $\frac{1}{2}$ Grant Ave.

Lohman, W. B., Marshall & Cain Bldg.

Martin, A. J., 321 W. 5th St.

Meek, W. R., 522 Grant Ave.

Moore, A. L., 46 First National Bank Bldg.

Myers, S. A., Land Agency, 23 National Bank Bldg.

Pruitt, A. G., 106 W. 6th St.

Sovereign, Milton, 613 Grant Ave.

White, W. L., & Son, 25 National Bank Bldg.



MIDDLEBROOK BLOCK, YORK



EAST SIDE LINCOLN AVENUE SOUTH FROM SEVENTH STREET, YORK



JEWELERS

Davis, C. A., 429 Lincoln Ave.
 Hannis, F. A., 101 E. 6th St.
 Myers, J. C., 601 Lincoln Ave.

LAWYERS

France & France, 522½ Grant Ave.
 Gilbert Bros., 21-22 First National Bank Bldg.
 Kirpatrick, W. L., 35 First National Bank Bldg.
 Spurlock, G. M., 37 First National Bank Bldg.
 Power & Meeker, 112½ W. 6th St.
 Purinton, J. W., 611½ Lincoln Ave.
 Sandall, C. E., 101½ E. 6th St.
 Wildman, M. M., Courthouse.
 Wyckoff, W. W., 610 Lincoln Ave.

LUMBER DEALERS

Clarke, E. S., & Co., 314-328 Lincoln Ave.
 Liggett Lumber & Coal Co., 1000 Lincoln Ave.
 Van Wickle Grain & Lumber Co., 327-329 Lincoln Ave.

MACHINISTS

York Foundry & Engine Works, 912-928 Grant Ave.

REAL ESTATE AND LOANS

Bell, J. M., 528 Grant Ave.
 Benson-Olmstead Investment Co., 211 E. 6th St.
 Bowman, J. C., & Co., 610½ Lincoln Ave.
 Brott, H. W., 605 Lincoln Ave.
 Callender Land Agency, 604 Lincoln Ave.
 Crone, C. B., 613½ Lincoln Ave.
 Cross, I. F., 123 E. 7th St.
 Ferguson, N. M., 106 W. 6th St.
 Florida Land Co., 427 Lincoln Ave.
 Jacobs, J. A., 117½ E. 6th St.
 Malcom Land Agency, 503 Lincoln Ave.
 Miller, W. A., 34 First National Bank Bldg.

Myers, S. A., Land Agency, First National Bank Bldg.
 Nebraska Trading & Realty Co., 511½ Lincoln Ave.
 Pruitt, A. G., 106 W. 6th St.
 Roger, G. H., 1 Marshall & Cain Bldg.
 Sovereign, Milton, 613 Grant Ave.
 Trauger, C. E., Real Estate Agency, 101 E. 6th St.
 Troutman, A. E., 704 Beaver Ave.
 Zarr, J. E., 828 Lincoln Ave.

SEWING MACHINES

Spitler, Wm. M., 801 Burlington Ave.

SHOEMAKERS

Greer, W. K., 625 Lincoln Ave.
 Johnson, Peter, 504½ Grant Ave.

SHOES—RETAIL

Johnson Bros., 103 E. 6th St.
 Lundgren, G. W., 625 Lincoln Ave.
 Meehan, Dennis, 525 Lincoln Ave.
 Sterling, Samuel, 611 Lincoln Ave.

TAILORS

Adam, Hamper, 417 Grant Ave.
 City Sutorium, 607½ Lincoln Ave.
 Hesler's Cleaning Works, 114 W. 6th St.
 Olson, John, 423 Lincoln Ave.

TAXICABS

Lancaster, Z. E., 702 Lincoln Ave.

TILE MANUFACTURERS

York Brick & Tile Co., 300 W. 18th St.

UNDERTAKERS

Metz, A. A., 616 Lincoln Ave.
 Smith & Hitchcock, 112 E. 5th St.

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Allard, B. H., 416 Grant Ave.
 Lovell Roy, 200 W. 5th St.
 Newman, L. V., 804 Lincoln Ave.
 Taylor, W. M., 215 E. 5th St.

WALL PAPER

Boyer, W. G., 521 Lincoln Ave.
 Cowell & Felton, 100-102 E. 5th St.
 Fountain, R. D., 112 W. 6th St.

WATER COMPANIES

York Water Co., 113-115 W. 7th St.

COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

York, like many other towns, has usually had an effective organization of the business and commercial interests of the community operating. Starting back with the board of trade in the '80s and the rather perfunctory chamber of commerce or commercial club of the '90s, and coming on down, there have been numerous organizations, with periods in between when there was no visible force at this work in the community.

The present commercial club has been a very active influence, since 1915 particularly. The re-organization accomplished on January 1, 1915, was under the following officers and directors. Organization committee: C. A. McCloud, chairman; F. L. Borden, E. B. Woods, Wade Read, George Shreck, Dennis Meehan, Wm. Overstreet, E. C. Felton, J. H. Chain, S. E. Mansfield, Everett Gould, Newman and C. O. Lundstrom. The officers chosen were: president, Dennis Meehan; vice president, W. F. Newman; treasurer, W. G. Boyer; executive committee, George Shreck, Everett Gould, A. E. Mead, Leoner Harvey, with J. N. Kildow, as secretary. In 1916 the officers were: president, Dennis Meehan; vice president, C. N. Beaver; treasurer, A. E. Mead, and secretary, George W. Shreck. In 1917 Meehan remained president and the other officers held the same positions. In 1918 George W. Shreck became president, C. N. Beaver remained vice president and W. G. Liggett treasurer. Raymond Woodrum came to the club as paid secretary in March, 1918. The same officers held over in 1919. The club's report for 1919 shows the following results, in part:

CONVENTIONS ENTERTAINED IN YORK

Travelers' Protective Association.
South Platte Division, Meridian Highway Association.
Knights of Pythias.
Grand Army of the Republic Encampment.
Spanish-American War Veterans.
Women's Relief Corps.
Sons of Veterans.
Ladies of the G. A. R.
Daughters of the Veterans.
Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.
Nebraska State Sunday School Association.
Nebraska State Pharmaceutical Association.
I. O. O. F. Encampment.
Rebekah Assembly.
Grand Patriarchs.
Nebraska Hotel Men's Association.
Nurses' Convention.
W. C. T. U. Convention.
Christian Endeavor Convention.
Nebraska Peoria Life Insurance Agents.

PUBLICITY

	1918	1919
Paid space in York papers	936 inches	1772 inches
Free space in York papers	1104 inches	1941 inches
Paid space in outside papers	68 inches	574 inches
Free space in outside papers	371 inches	827 inches

*A Few of the Things That Have Been Boosted, Financed and Promoted by the
Members of the York County Commercial Club*

Ice plant of 20-ton capacity, costing \$20,000.

York County Fair, Fall Festival and School Parade.

Home Coming and Celebration, July 4th.

Assisted in organizing the World War Veterans.

Secured for York County the "Pershing Historic Highway."

Bands organized—The York Band and the York Boys' Band.

Bands secured during the year—The State Band, the United Spanish-American War Veterans' Drum Corps, the Polk Band, the Benedict Band.

Permanent street decorations, festoons, flags, etc.

Chautauqua Week.

Armistic Day celebration.

Rotary Club.

Country Club.

Monday Noon Luncheons.

Memorial Day Program.

A Budget of \$8,000.

Hog Breeders' Sale.

Welcome Signs.

Auto Motive Club organized.

Central Nebraska Poultry Association.

Good Roads and Good Roads Meetings.

FARM LABOR BUREAU RECORD

	1918	1919
Number of men applying for work	378	298
Number of men work secured for	216	173
Numbers of farmers applying for men	273	386
Number of farmers securing help	202	161
Number of men other than farm hands	49	78
Number of men securing work in York	—	17

The success reached by the York Rotary Club is evidenced by the following notice of December, 1920:

The December issue of The Rotarian, official organ of the International Association of Rotary clubs contains a group picture of the members of the York club. Eighty-two Rotarian smiles are in the group. The York club is very much in evidence in the Rotary field by reason of its size and energy and lately by the

publication of a song book of Rotary songs which is being purchased all over the world where Rotary clubs exist.

The 1920 organization of this club was carried on with C. N. Beaver as president, E. B. Smith, vice president, W. G. Liggett, treasurer, and A. W. Ballenger of Sun Theatre succeeded Raymond Woodrum as secretary in August, 1920. The work was carried on by the following directors and committee chairmen.

Directors

C. N. Beaver	E. H. Smith
Geo. W. Shreck	Wade H. Read
W. G. Boyer	J. N. Kildow
F. L. Borden	E. B. Hanna
F. C. Middlebrook	J. G. Alden
C. A. McCloud	Wm. Overstreet
F. A. Hannis	W. J. O'Donnell
E. S. Lawrence	

Chairmen

F. L. Borden, Executive	J. G. Alden, Municipal Improvements
W. J. O'Donnell, Membership	J. N. Kildow, Banquet
C. A. McCloud, Finance and Budget	Dr. E. B. Hanna, Fall Festival
Wade H. Read, Advertising	Amusements
E. H. Smith, Freight and Train Service	E. S. Lawrence, Live Stock and Agri-
W. G. Boyer, Good Roads	cultural Development
F. A. Hannis, Convention and Enter-	Geo. W. Shreck, County Fair
tainment	F. C. Middlebrook, Auditing
Wm. Overstreet, Industrial and Manu-	
facturing	

MEMBERSHIP LIST YORK COUNTY COMMERCIAL CLUB, JANUARY, 1921

Irvin Askin	C. N. Beaver
H. W. Angle, tin shop	Miss Annie H. Beck
Lee N. Anderson	Henry Becker
Chas. Amadon, Professor in York Col-	Dr. J. S. Bell
lege	Dr. H. O. Bell
J. G. Alden, editor	J. M. Bell, real estate
R. O. Allen, clerk District Court	E. H. Bemis
H. W. Albert	Chas. Bissett
A. J. Akofer	F. L. Borden
O. W. Auch Moedy	F. M. Bost
Chas. J. Ayers	W. G. Boyer, drugs
A. A. Allen, grocery	Chas Bradwell, drugs
F. J. Ball	M. P. Brandrup
A. W. Ballenger, Sun Theatre	Castle I. Brewer
J. W. Ballenger	W. N. Brink
W. C. Baer, furniture	H. D. Brown
J. W. Barnett	J. E. Boyer

- W. H. Brooke
W. E. Brooks, transfer
T. N. Brown
C. L. Brown
R. L. Brott, life insurance
H. W. Brott, real estate
W. W. Buckley
D. E. Button, plumbing
Geo. A. Bullock
Frank Burnham
W. L. Bernard
E. A. Busk, auto repairing
Dr. C. S. Byrnes
Wm. Burlington
Dr. C. H. Brugh
J. C. Cawezil
H. E. Capehart
A. E. Carter
R. E. Caldwell
C. E. Callender, land
Dr. C. A. Calkins
Dr. Bert Calkins
Dr. B. O. Callahan
J. H. Chain, ladies' outfitting
Jno. T. Chapman
O. M. Chambers
W. J. Chambers
A. B. Chatterton
Geo. E. Chilcote
E. S. Clark, lumber and coal
O. L. Clark
A. B. Coddling
Pete M. Condos
Geo. S. Cook
R. R. Copsey
Joshua Cox
Rev. P. B. Cope
Geo. Corcoran
E. E. Cook
Julius H. Crane
C. B. Crone
J. P. Cunningham
Thos. Curran
R. E. Cutler
Wm. Dayton
Ray E. Davis
C. A. Davis, jeweler
W. H. Davis, life insurance
Jno. J. Davis, real estate
Earl Dean, Dean & Co., paint
Geo. Deremer
N. A. Dean
E. V. Deason
D. B. Deremer
Rev. Lotan R. DeWolf
Wm. P. DeCord
Carl Diller
Wm. Dolling
John Doran
Lloyd Durbin
James Durbin
O. J. Dudek
Dr. W. F. Eckles
F. J. Edwards
J. L. Edwards
Rev. Elmer E. Embhoff
Jas. B. Ettel, grocery
Otto E. Evans
Frank H. Evans
W. W. Feaster
H. C. Feemster
E. C. Felton, drugs
C. W. Fisher, insurance
Thos. P. Fredrick
J. E. Friel
Joe R. Furman
W. R. Furman
H. A. Freitag
Ira C. Freet
W. O. Froid
G. W. France
L. E. Foster
C. W. Gardiner
Otto Gaeth
Robert G. Gale, photos
C. B. Gaunt, Ford agent
W. K. Geer, electric shoe repair
A. Geil
C. F. Gilbert
E. A. Gilbert
O. S. Gilmore
J. R. Gore
R. V. Goble
Naeo Good
W. E. Gould
A. W. Graham

- H. C. Graves
Thos. I. Grewell
J. A. Griffith
Jno. F. Grosshans
F. F. Crosshans
W. Lee Griffin
Ben A. Hall
Fred E. Hall
S. F. Hansen
Dr. E. B. Hanna
F. A. Hannis, jewelry
W. A. Harrison
G. A. Hartman
Marion F. Hays
Murray Halstead
R. E. Hendrick
J. D. Herzog
Mansfield Hervey
Pete Hesler
A. A. Heusner
J. C. Hice
Chas. P. Hildabrand, Boyer Drug Co.
L. C. Herse
Olen Hitchcock
Paul H. Hoppen
Geo. B. Hopkins
H. G. Hopkins
E. T. Hoover
A. C. Hubbell
B. Hubbell
Chas. J. Humphrey, life insurance
D. D. Jackson
Everett James
J. A. Jacobs, real estate
G. H. Jerome, drugs
Al J. Jess
Rev. L. F. John
A. G. Johnson
J. S. Johnson
S. V. Johnson
Perry Johnson
M. F. Jones
J. M. Johnson, art store
Orville O. Jones
Lyle Kassar
C. A. Keefe
W. L. Kirkpatrick
N. A. Kimmish
J. N. Kildow
B. King
Dr. D. D. King
Marion King
M. B. King
J. W. Kingsley, land
H. S. King
H. C. Kleinschmidt, groceries
H. D. Klinker
Chas. Kliener
Dr. C. F. Klopp, dentist
E. C. Knight
C. H. Kolling
E. B. Koon
B. S. Kuhn
John J. Krulish
H. J. Kroeker
Ray Lantz
W. J. Lancaster
Z. E. Lancaster
Charles Leader
De Witt Lee
John Lett
E. A. Levitt
E. S. Lawrence
John Leffingwell
John P. Lloyd
G. W. Lundgren
D. B. Lytle
H. R. Lytle
J. W. Little, real estate
W. G. Liggett, lumber and coal
Lloyd L. Lindberg
Leigh Lincoln
Clyde Little
L. S. Loomer
Coy A. Lovitt
Herbert H. Loomis
Telfer C. Lord
J. F. McAnally
George McCall
C. A. McCloud
J. R. McCloud
W. E. McCloud
Robert McConaughy
M. A. McDougall
V. M. McDermott
John McFadden

J. R. McGowan, tire shop
Dr. J. C. McKinley
M. O. McLaughlin
Ed McMullen, hardware
Howard Mapps
F. E. Marble
C. L. Marble
W. V. Macartney
Ernest E. Mason
A. W. Mason
Grover C. May
W. B. Malcolm, land
Ed S. Martin
Guy Meradith
Peter A. Meehan
Dennis Meehan, Jr.
Dennis Meehan, Sr., shoes
A. E. Mead, coal
Dr. J. M. Meradith
A. A. Metz, undertaker
F. C. Middlebrook, dry goods
Roy W. Miller
J. C. Miller
Dr. George Miller
W. A. Miller
Fred Meisner
Albert F. Meyer
O. N. Miller
Dr. O. M. Moore
V. V. Moore
J. C. Moore
J. C. Morgan
Dr. V. J. Morgan, dentist
Floyd Mohring
John Muir
J. W. Myers
S. A. Myers, land
W. E. Nelson
Guy E. Nearing
J. H. Newbold
O. E. Nodurft
H. E. Nordlund
John Norman
L. W. Norgren
W. J. O'Donnell
Dr. C. N. Olmsted, osteopath
John Olson, tailor
Edw. W. Otto

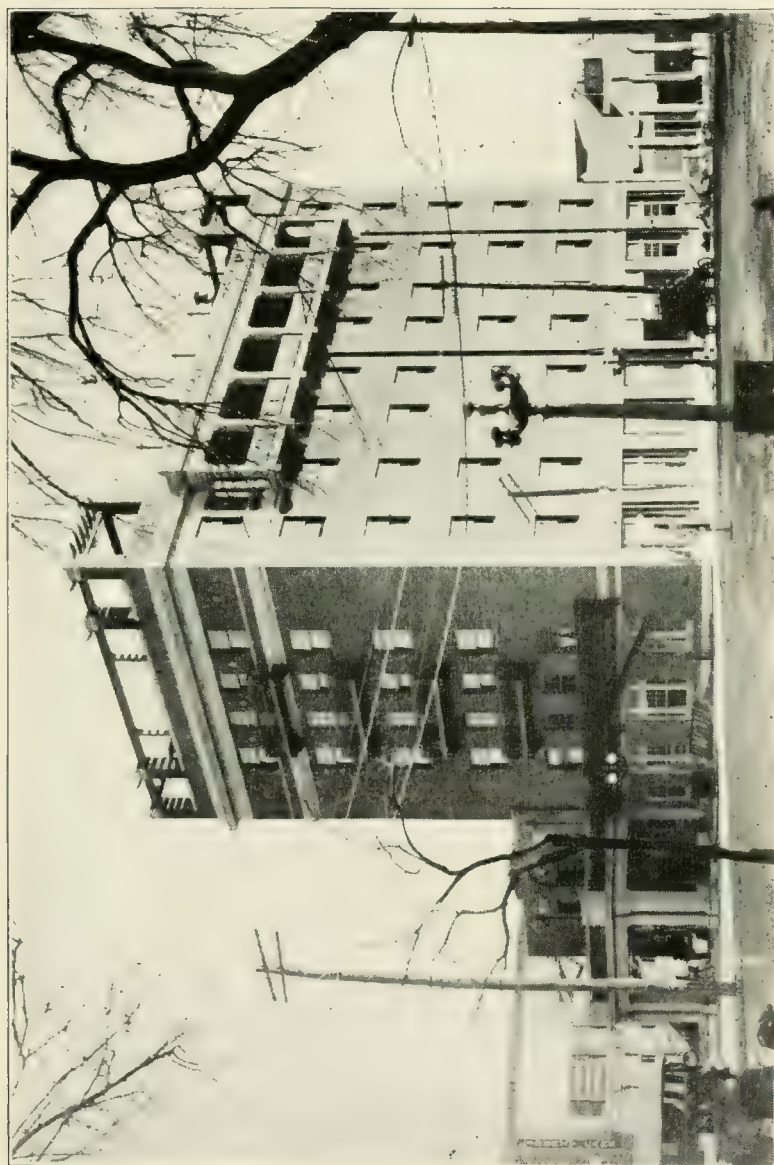
William Overstreet
Emmett Osborn
George Pfenning
Charles Pfeffer
L. A. Peterson
C. O. Peterson
C. A. Peterson
Benton E. Perry, attorney
J. A. Parks
J. Paschang
M. Patterson
B. T. Price
Alva F. Price
F. L. Propst
Charles L. Price
Steve Poullos, shoe shining parlor
James Poullos
Dr. J. N. Plumb
John Raeside
R. A. Rademacher, furniture
Frank Rademacher, furniture
G. R. Rankin
R. M. Rankin
Wade H. Read, dry goods
Charles H. Read, dry goods
W. O. Ritchey
Frank Rice
Floyd H. Rockwell
Louis Rothman
T. P. Rose
George Ross
Clarence Robson
C. B. Roberts
Russell Rogers
Harry Rogers
Victor Rogers
Hervin U. Roop
W. L. Rossiter, auto repairs
Dr. B. A. Root
Charles Rothman, clothing
L. F. Ruppel
O. A. Rystrom
O. M. Sanne
D. R. Salisbury
C. E. Sandall, attorney
Ed Schlick
Pete Schnitzen
F. W. Schroeder, groceries

John Schleiger	C. G. Thamer
G. H. Schleiger	A. W. Thompson
Marvin B. Schmelzel	O. S. Townsend
Andy Schmelzel	R. E. Townsend
S. M. Sarver	E. F. Thompson
A. O. Smaba	George B. Tout
Joe F. Smaha	A. L. Tout
Alfred Smart	Marshall G. Tout
Bert E. Smith	T. J. Van Decar, insurance
E. H. Smith	George Van Vleet
George W. Shreck, land	F. E. Valentine
H. E. Shipman	F. P. Van Wickle
Dr. George P. Shidler	H. L. Vradenburg
J. E. Shrigley	Fred Voss
Jay S. Shafer	George Wallender
L. C. Shipman	F. H. Wallingford
C. L. Shipp	J. E. Walton
Floyd P. Shiley	E. E. Welch
T. E. Sedgwick	E. A. Well
Otho Sears	G. H. Werner
M. Snedeker	George J. Weber
L. P. Sorenson	B. A. Wythers
Joe Snyder	W. W. Wyckoff, abstracter
A. C. Snyder	Arthur G. Wray, attorney
L. F. Southworth	Miss Mamie Wood
George M. Spurlock, attorney	E. B. Woods, clothier
M. B. Sperling	L. H. Witters
Sam Sterling, shoes	Russell Williams, clothing
H. W. Stein	Harry Williams
R. H. Stone	A. Williamsen
W. W. Stevenson	Earl Williams
G. F. Steube	Fred C. Wilkens
W. D. Stewart	H. R. Wildman,
J. W. Stapleton	M. M. Wildman, attorney
R. A. Summers	George W. Widener
E. R. Stimson	W. T. Wherry
E. L. Stimson	W. L. White, insurance
Charles F. Stroman	E. G. White
Fred Stroebel	L. P. Young
E. Taylor	G. H. Yoder
B. A. Tavelin	

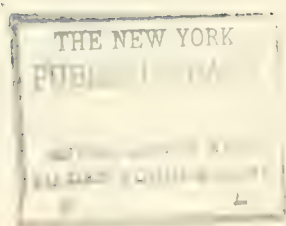
HOTELS

York Has Had Many Hotels in the Past

Pages could be devoted to recounting the interesting incidents connected with the Blodgett House, which for more than thirty years was the commercial palace and travelers' mansion, when stopping at York. "Dad" Blodgett, in his many years



HOTEL MCCLOUD, YORK



of genial "hosting," was "Ye Host" with a reputation that spread far and wide. The Le Grand, another hostelry that shed glory upon York's luster, and within the past few years torn away to make room for the splendid new store building erected by the American State Bank for the Middlebrook firm. Other hotels that by the very mention of their name will cause a vivid stream of memories to pass through the minds of any old settler of York County were: the Wyoming House, which stood for many years where Fraternal Hall now graces West Sixth Street; Col. B. Crabb's Commercial Hotel, predecessor in name to the Le Grand; W. A. Reed's first hotel in 1871, which became part of McKellip's Central Hotel in 1878 and later a part of the Blodgett; the Iowa House, at 601 Platte Avenue; St. Elmo House, 709 Lincoln Avenue, and Waverly House, near B. & M. depot, and many others herein overlooked.

But the crowning pride of York's endeavor to offer a welcome to the stranger within her gates and to lure many strangers within her gates who would not otherwise stop is the wonderful Hotel McCloud. The following account upon the occasion of the opening of this splendid structure gives also an account of how, in December, 1918, it came to be a realization and pride to the City of York and the entire county:

"For years and years the citizens of York dreamed of a hotel commensurate with the requirements of the traveling public, and one that would put York on the map as a convention city. But for years and years the dreams of the citizens of York were only dreams. No hotel was built. The hotel facilities were not what the public desired. No conventions came to York. The citizens dreamed on. No outside capital offered to build a hotel except on terms that could not be accepted. But by this time some of the bolder and more courageous of these dreamers realized that if York was to have a new hotel local capital would have to build it, and they there and then quit dreaming. To put it plain, they got busy and began to talk of a hotel built with York County money. There was some discouragement, but these progressive gentlemen had put on their fighting armor and were prepared to battle against any sort of odds, and boldly declared York would have in the near future a hotel second to none in the country as to convenience, equipment and everything which an up-to-date hotel should have. Finally, action was had at a meeting held in the city hall in the spring of 1916. Later on this talk was crystallized into articles of incorporation and the York Hotel Company was born and incorporated on the seventh day of September, 1916. A charter was granted by the State of Nebraska on September 14th. Capital stock was authorized of \$100,000. Since then application has been made to increase the capital stock from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

"At the first annual meeting of the stockholders the following board of directors was elected: H. M. Childs, C. A. McCloud, N. A. Dean, W. H. Read, L. S. Loomer, C. N. Beaver, W. G. Boyer, J. R. McCloud, G. W. France, A. W. Thompson, Dr. J. M. Meradith, F. P. Van Wickle, E. B. Woods, E. A. Levitt, and Carl Behling. Later on Dennis Meehan, Dr. George P. Shidler, James B. Harvey, Mansfield Hervey, W. V. McCartney, W. L. White, Frank Borden, and William Overstreet were added to the board of directors.

"The board of directors at the first meeting elected C. A. McCloud president, H. M. Childs vice president, E. A. Levitt secretary, and N. A. Dean treasurer. Shortly after the death of Mr. H. M. Childs, L. S. Loomer was elected vice presi-

dent in his stead, and when E. A. Levitt volunteered and entered the United States service, he was succeeded as secretary by Jay W. Shafer.

"Competitive bids were called for and plans were submitted by eighteen of the leading architects of Nebraska and surrounding states, and after most careful consideration the plan of Frederick W. Clarke and brother, Edwin B. Clarke, of Omaha, was accepted, and they were directed to submit complete plans and specifications for adoption.

"By vote of the board of directors the following stockholders were selected as a building committee to have charge and supervision of the construction of the hotel; C. A. McCloud, chairman; W. H. Read, Dr. J. M. Meradith, George W. France, and C. N. Beaver. These men have served during the entire period of construction and have sacrificed much of their time in looking after the details of the building.

"The ground upon which the hotel is constructed was purchased of Frederick C. Power and C. O. Larson of Loup City and B. A. Wythers of York.

"In October, 1917, the hotel was leased to Fred C. Terry of Muncie, Ind., for a period of ten years. The tenant was to be to the expense of furnishing the hotel and it was agreed that the furnishings should cost at least \$25,000. The tenant has more than kept his agreement, and the hotel is most beautifully furnished and the cost to the proprietor has been in excess of forty thousand dollars. It is safe to say that there is not a better equipped and furnished hotel in the West.

"Peter Kiewits & Sons of Omaha had the general contract, P. A. Blum of Omaha the plumbing, Burrowes Screen Company of Portland, Me., furnished the screens; Amos Johnson did the excavating, James Morton & Son of Omaha furnished the hardware, the Morreau Company of Cleveland, Ohio, the fixtures; Albert Pick & Co. of Chicago, refrigerators; Louis Wenworth, weather strips; Public Service Company of York, wiring; Otis Elevator Company of Omaha, elevators; William Chambers of York, accessories for bathrooms; C. A. Keefe, installing fixtures; Louis Rothman, painting and decorating, and the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company, telephones.

"David Roberts was foreman for the Public Service Company which installed the electric system, and it was considerable pride and satisfaction to Mr. Roberts that everything was pronounced perfect upon the first trial. When you come to think there is more than eleven miles of electric wires in the building, it is wonderful that no mistake was made in the immense labyrinth of wires used in this building.

"The hotel is modern and up to date in every particular. It is a six-story building above the basement and every inch of the space is utilized to good advantage. In the basement there is a barber shop, tailor shop, billiard and poolroom, store room, toilet rooms, supply room, and lavatories for the help. Also there is an electric hoist that lowers the trunks into the basement corridor and a convention or banquet hall, 38x72 feet, that will accommodate from two to three hundred people.

"On the first floor there is a lobby, manager's office, dining room, store room, kitchen, and two beautiful rooms on each side of the main entrance, one for the men and the other for ladies as a writing room and wash room equipped particularly to take care of automobile tourists.

"The second or mezzanine floor is especially fitted up for women guests of the hotel. The sample rooms are on this floor, also ladies' parlor and maids' room. It

is safe to say that there is no hotel in Nebraska that has looked more to the comforts of the women guests than the McCloud Hotel.

"The furnishing throughout the hotel is first class in every particular. There are two public toilet rooms on each floor and fifty-four guest chambers with bath. The hotel has something unique in the way of sleeping porches. No other hotel in Nebraska has looked after the comfort and the housing of guests better than the McCloud Hotel.

"At a later date, of which announcement will be made, there will be a formal opening and everyone in York County will be invited to come and inspect the hotel.

"The citizens and property owners of York donated about \$30,000 toward the construction of the hotel, purely as a gift, for which no stock will be issued, consequently it makes the stock in the hotel very desirable from an investment standpoint.

"From basement to the top story no pains or expense has been spared in the furnishings. The lobby is fitted out with davenports, easy chairs, rugs, and every convenience that the most fastidious could desire. The immense banquet hall, which is in the northeast corner of the basement, the billiard hall and barber shop are reached by a flight of stairs from the rear of the lobby. Through double French doors at the southwest corner of the hotel lobby the spacious dining room is reached. The dining-room furnishings are of the very best that money could buy and the table silverware is all sterling and of handsome design and ample to supply more than one hundred plates.

"The kitchen, which is reached from the southeast of the lobby, is equipped with all modern paraphernalia found in the very best hotels in the country. Much of the work of the kitchen is done by electric power. There is a dishwasher with a capacity of ten thousand dishes an hour, automatic egg boilers, potato peeler, potato masher, bread slicer, vegetable slicer, butter cutter, meat grinder, bread crumber and many other conveniences. An electric fan of enormous size just over the hood of the big hotel range carries off all smoke from cooking to the outside of the building leaving the kitchen and all parts of the hotel free from odors arising during the preparation of meals. To the north of the main part of the kitchen is a big refrigerator in which are kept meats and fruits and perishable vegetables. There is also a big warmer where cooked food is kept warm and ready to serve at any time.

"The 'Ladies' Lounge' is on the second floor, and it is in the furnishings here that the management of the hotel are to be particularly complimented in the selections they have made. The furniture is of mahogany of the style of the Elizabethan period and has a striking and pleasing appearance, and their luxurious ease will be greatly enjoyed by many a weary traveler in the years to come.

"The furnishings of the seventy bedrooms are practically the same. The beds, chairs, dressers, grip stands, etc., are American walnut and are of handsome designs. The bed mattresses are of 40-pound curled hair and are very inviting. The carpeting for the entire building alone cost upwards of eleven thousand dollars, and is of a rich red and green design and very attractive to the eye.

"The ladies' parlor is a 'thing of beauty and a joy forever.' It is exquisitely furnished in ivory enameled wicker, with settees, davenports, writing desks, rockers, center table, reading lamps, beautiful floor covering, making it appear in keeping with the completeness of the entire building.

"The dream the citizens of York dreamed for years has found reality in the pluck and courage of the leading spirits of York's business men. The hotel is built and doing business. It is a credit to the City of York and a living monument to the men who, recognizing the needs of the city, have put their money into the undertaking without stint. There are around two hundred stockholders in the hotel company. The organizing genius of this array of boosters was Charles A. McCloud. By mutual consent, perhaps, without a dissenting thought, the hotel was named after him, and he has earned the compliment.

"The York Democrat extends its hearty congratulations to the men who built Hotel McCloud."

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS OF YORK COUNTY

Following are the newly elected officers of each township in York County together with their mailing address and the office they were elected to:

Stewart Township

Robert Speery, supervisor, Gresham.

S. A. Barbee, assessor, Gresham.

C. C. Brittell, town clerk, Gresham.

H. E. Brown, town treasurer, Gresham.

C. C. Marble, justice peace, Gresham.

Thayer Township

O. B. Leidtke, assessor, Thayer.

Wm. Lytle, town clerk, Benedict.

Aug. Sackschewsky, town treasurer, York.

